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## Anger follows Tebbit move

## Thatcher bid to calm party on leadership

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent, Cheltenham

THE Prime Minister will today emphasize her determination to lead the Conservatives into the next election, and try to end the speculation fuelled by Mr Norman Tebbit's declaration of his readiness to stand if she stepped down.

She will be speaking against a background of fury at all levels of the party over Mr Tebbit's surprise intervention.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, called it an "unnecessary distraction" and gave a warning that internal divisions could cost the Tories the election. In a direct rebuke to Mr Tebbit, he declared: "Idle chatter about a leadership election must cease."

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, seized on the turmoil to deride the Conservatives as "squabbling like ferrets in a sack".

Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues had planned to use the Cheltenham gathering as the launch pad for a Conservative revival after the party's fall in

the polls and the loss of the Mid Staffordshire by-election. Instead, party activists met in a mood of dismay at the fresh outbreak of leadership speculation.

Mr Tebbit's declaration — which is seen as an attempt to derail Mr Michael Heseltine's campaign — particularly infuriated Mr Baker, who is already upset by Mr Tebbit's criticisms of his performance at Central Office. But it was said to have strengthened Mrs Thatcher's conviction that she must stay on.

Her message to the conference today will be "I am here to stay", according to informed sources. It was said yesterday on her behalf that she was fit, had much to do, that she was not losing her grip or sitting back and taking things easy. Close advisers insisted that she had as much vigour as she had 10 years ago.

As the conference opened, Lord Whitelaw, deputy party leader, drew cheers when he said Conservatives had to do everything in their power to win the next election "under Mrs Thatcher's leadership".

Mr Baker told the council: "Loyalty and unity have always been the great strengths of our party. Disloyalty and disunity have always been the great burdens of the Labour Party. Any house divided against itself will fall."

"So the lesson is clear. Talk of a leadership election, the canvassing of candidates, openly or surreptitiously, there is no vacancy, and there will be no vacancy, is welcomed only by our opponents. I say to you: let this idle chatter cease. We have serious work to do."

The theme was maintained by Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in a debate on the economy. None of the Government's achievements could have come about without the persistence, tenacity and courage of Margaret Thatcher, he said. "The enemies of the Conservative Party know that well, even if some of the friends of our party do not."

In the furor after Mr Tebbit's remarks, Mr Heseltine was pressed to admit to the BBC that there were a vacancy he would be likely to be a candidate. But, like Mr Tebbit, he emphasized there would be no vacancy.

Mr Heseltine said he fully respected Mr Tebbit's position. It was a legitimate and honourable thing to say. "If I

was asked the question 'Would you stand if there was a vacancy?' I do not think I would answer in any different language to Norman."

Mr Heseltine said if there were a vacancy, he would discuss the matter with friends, advisers and colleagues. "I'm not going to be naive. At the moment it looks as though the advice would be favourable. My judgement is that Mrs Thatcher will lead the Conservatives at the next election and that Mrs Thatcher will win."

Asked whether Mr Tebbit's intervention was helpful, he said: "Norman is a straight guy. You ask him a question. He will give you an answer."

Mr Tebbit maintained he had said nothing very new and said he was amazed at the commotion his remarks had caused. He was confident the Prime Minister would win the next election. If, for some entirely unforeseen reason, she were to stand down, "unless I felt there was a candidate whom I would strongly support, I would consider putting my hat in the ring."

But he went on: "I'm not particularly interested in doing so, I'm not particularly anxious for these things. I was once, I am quite laid-back about it now."

Asked about the timing of his statement, he responded: "Should I tell lies to journalists when they ask me questions? When you get a straight question so far as it is possible you give a straight answer."

In Cheltenham, Mr Sally Williams of Cardiff, mid Wales, summed up the feelings of many when she declared: "I would walk through fire for Margaret Thatcher, but I would not walk a yard for some of these flashy pretenders to her throne. We need our Prime Minister's enduring strength and courage and the sooner some whinging backbenchers realize that, the sooner they will ensure they will hold on to their seats at the next election."

The leadership issue dominated yesterday's proceedings, overshadowing even the poll tax debate in which Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government, declared that the charge should be a Tory weapon "to drive Labour out of local government."

Tebbit's team, page 4  
Photograph, page 4  
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## University dismisses exam cheating appeal

By Mark Souster

FRANCIS FOCKE, the Bristol University student accused of cheating in his final examinations, yesterday lost his four-year battle to clear his name, when his appeal was dismissed.

The verdict was announced after a two-hour meeting of the university council, which considered conclusions of a 100-page report compiled after Mr Focke's latest appeal held earlier this month.

At the Senate House yesterday, Mr Michael Parry, the university secretary said: "The university council considered the report of the

special committee which it had established in respect of the appeal of Mr Focke. "It resolved that Mr Focke's appeal against the findings of the Science Faculty Board of Examiners that he had employed, beyond reasonable doubt, knowledge of examiners' solutions which could not have been honestly obtained, be dismissed."

Mr Focke, aged 32, has now exhausted the university's appeal machinery. He has vowed to continue the struggle to clear his name and will now approach the university's Visitor, the Queen.

By Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

LORD Rothschild, chairman of the National Gallery trustees, has given a major Dutch 17th century painting to the nation in lieu of inheritance tax of £2.8 million on the estate of his late cousin. It has now been presented to the National Gallery.

But the deal was accepted only after a tussle over the value of the work. "View of the Westerkerk, Amsterdam" by Jan van der Heyden, regarded by the gallery as "one of the greatest achievements of Dutch townscape painting in the 17th century".

The news comes as Lord Rothschild waits to hear whether the Government has accepted a similar proposal to save Canova's "The Three Graces", by setting its £7.6 million price against the same bill. The wrangle over the price of

the van der Heyden revolves around an original valuation of £7 million by Christie's. The previous auction record for van der Heyden is only £190,000. The Museums and Galleries Commission, regarding the Christie's valuation as wildly inflated, fought for a year to establish its own figure of £4 million. Had the £7 million valuation been accepted by the commission, it would have settled tax liabilities of £4.9 million. "On this occasion we felt very strongly that £7 million was unacceptable," said Mrs Heather Wilson, the commission's capital tax officer. She said she consulted experts both in the museum world and the trade in order to back up her price.

Meanwhile, Christie's still insist that the painting "was worth considerably more on the international market". Prices are notoriously difficult to predict. Christie's have been embar-

assed on a number of occasions in recent months when their estimates were too bullish, and Old Master works by Turner, Antonello da Messina and Bernini have failed to sell.

It is understood that Christie's based their van der Heyden valuation on a painting by another Dutchman, Cuyt, bought by the National Gallery recently for £8 million. "Christie's based their valuation here on that," said a source. "But this painting is not the same class."

"The nation has got the picture at a fair price, not a bargain price" said one of the commissioners. "It is a triumph for the inheritance system."

Negotiations have been embarrassing for Lord Rothschild, entailing as they did the roles of both buyer and seller. The gallery stresses the fact that it "declined to play any part" in negotiations. Lord Rothschild, who as Mr Jacob

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The Duke and Duchess of York leaving the Portland Hospital with their second daughter, Eugenie Victoria Helena

## Princess Eugenie surprises bookies

By Libby Jukes

THE Duke and Duchess of York have named their second child Eugenie Victoria Helena, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

She will be known as Princess Eugenie of York. Well-wishers, many bearing flowers, said the Duchess appeared "fit and well" as she and her new daughter were driven away from the Portland Hospital in London by the Duke to their temporary home at Castlewood House, near Egham, Surrey.

Their choice of first name for the princess, sixth in line to the throne, surprised bookmakers, who had tipped Charlotte heavily as the favourite, with Sharon and Kylie as outside chances at 100-1.

The name is not without precedent in the Royal Family. Eugenie, a Greek name meaning "well born", was the granddaughter of Queen Victoria and daughter of Princess Beatrice, namesake of the Duke and Duchess's first child.

Helena, the new baby's third name, was Queen Victoria's third daughter.

Dr John Southgate, the Dean of York, suggested that York Minster might be used for the baptism. Buckingham Palace said no baptism arrangements had been made.

The Queen has appointed a test-tube baby specialist as her surgeon-gynaecologist, it was announced yesterday. Mr Marcus Setchell takes over from Sir George Flaker who is retiring after delivering about 20,000 babies including nine members of the Royal Family.

## Palumbo scheme blocked by judges

By Christopher Warman  
Property Correspondent

THE long-running saga of the controversial redevelopment of the Mappin & Webb site of Victorian buildings in the City of London turned into a marathon yesterday when the Court of Appeal quashed a decision by Mr Nicholas Ridley, former Secretary of State for the Environment, to allow the demolition of eight listed buildings, which would have enabled Mr Peter Palumbo's new scheme to proceed.

The judges overturned a High Court decision last December which gave the go-ahead. Lord Justice Woolf, sitting with Lords Justices Parker and Nicholls, said he was quashing Mr Ridley's decision "with the greatest regret" but said it was "finally flawed."

The court held that Mr Ridley had failed to give adequate reasons for his decision to proceed.

The appeal was brought by Save Britain's Heritage. It hailed the decision as a "fantastic victory".

The Secretary of State was refused leave to appeal to the Lords but the Environment Department said a transcript of the ruling was being studied closely before a decision was taken whether to seek leave directly to the Lords.

Mr Peter Palumbo, who has been planning the redevelopment for 20 years, said: "Today's decision obviously comes as a disappointment, particularly as we seem to be a victim of circumstances beyond our control. I shall now take the most detailed legal advice before deciding upon the next step, but I will never give up and I live to fight another day."

Had the £7 million valuation been accepted by the commission, it would have settled tax liabilities of £4.9 million. "On this occasion we felt very strongly that £7 million was unacceptable," said Mrs Heather Wilson, the commission's capital tax officer. She said she consulted experts both in the museum world and the trade in order to back up her price.

Meanwhile, Christie's still insist that the painting "was worth considerably more on the international market". Prices are notoriously difficult to predict. Christie's have been embar-

## Collusion 'here to stay' in Ulster

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE problem of collusion between "loyalist" terrorists and the security forces in Northern Ireland is "impossible to eradicate, officers in the Stevens team investigating such links have concluded."

This assessment is expected to be reflected in their report which, *The Times* has learnt, is likely to recommend a radical reform of the procedures for the handling of intelligence information on terrorist suspects by the security forces.

The report, compiled by Mr John Stevens, Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, will be delivered to Mr Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC, early next week and is bound to lead to further heated debate over the affair.

Mr Annesley called in Mr

Stevens to investigate in September last year after the Ulster Freedom Fighters, a loyalist terrorist group, justified its murder of a Roman Catholic man by showing intelligence documents to the BBC which it claimed had been received from members of the security forces.

To date 58 people have either been charged or reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions by the inquiry team. Ten members of the Ulster Defence Regiment have been charged but no police officers.

The report is a substantial document which attempts to describe the extent of collusion activity in the past and to record the detailed investigations carried out over the past six months by Mr Stevens and

his team of 20 detectives from mainland forces.

It is expected to argue that, while collusion activity is probably impossible to eradicate in an environment where security force personnel are largely drawn from one side of the community and most of the violence is coming from the other, it can be kept to a minimum. This could be achieved by strict controls on intelligence handling and stiff penalties for abuse.

The key to Mr Stevens's recommendations is the creation of an auditing and accounting regime of intelligence material used by all the security forces in Northern Ireland.

The report is likely to argue that new organizational structures are required in the

security forces to monitor the movement of documents, and that duplication should be avoided where possible.

It recognizes the role of intelligence information and its wide dissemination within the security forces as fundamental to the apprehension of suspects, but it argues for a new balance between distribution and security.

Central to its recommendations will be a new system of document identification and classification which will allow investigating officers to trace where, for example, a particular montage of suspects was originally produced, why it was produced, and to whom it was distributed.

Credibility problem, page 5  
Leading article, page 11

## Iraq admits plan to import capacitors

By Michael Theodorou, Nikosia, and Michael Evans, London

IRAQ admitted yesterday it was trying to import electrical capacitors of the kind seized at Heathrow airport this week, but again denied it intended to use them as triggers for nuclear weapons.

An official of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization accused Britain of inventing "a link between the normal use of any high advanced electronic or mechanical component and military purposes".

British Customs officers have made it clear ever since the arrests on Wednesday that the "40 electrical capacitors" were specifically for use in a "nuclear detonation chain."

The Iraqi official said: "The material which British authorities claimed to have discovered at London Airport

as nuclear triggers were merely electrical capacitors." They were used "for many industrial, scientific and engineering purposes and in the fields of electro-optics, fast electric discharge and plasma focusing systems."

Prosecutors in San Diego, California, who have released an indictment in the case, described the devices as "military electrical capacitors".

In San Diego yesterday, Mr Jerold Kowalksi, president of CSI Technologies, said his blood "turned cold" upon receiving a telex two years ago, which he said advised him that Iraq was seeking capacitors made to military specifications.

"I told myself, these guys are building a nuclear bomb," he said.

## REVIEW

## Light from Big Bang

How old is time? When did everything begin? How long will Earth survive? These fundamental questions may answer a telescope in space.  
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## Outwitting the KGB



Irina Ratushinskaya upset the KGB when she refused to become an informer; later she was jailed. In the Soviet Union she is still regarded as a dangerous state criminal. Page 33

## Doomed family's last pictures

In the first months after the Russian revolution Tsar Nicholas II and his family enjoyed some happy moments. They are recorded in poignant photographs. Page 35

## TRAVEL

## Battlefields of Agincourt

Little seems to have changed at the scene of Henry V's historic victory. Anyone who had been there on St Crispin's Day would surely recognize the scene today. Page 57

## SPORT

## Dark Blue Boat Race

The Oxford crew seems to have an overwhelming advantage over Cambridge in today's Boat Race. Full analysis, map and diagram. Page 51

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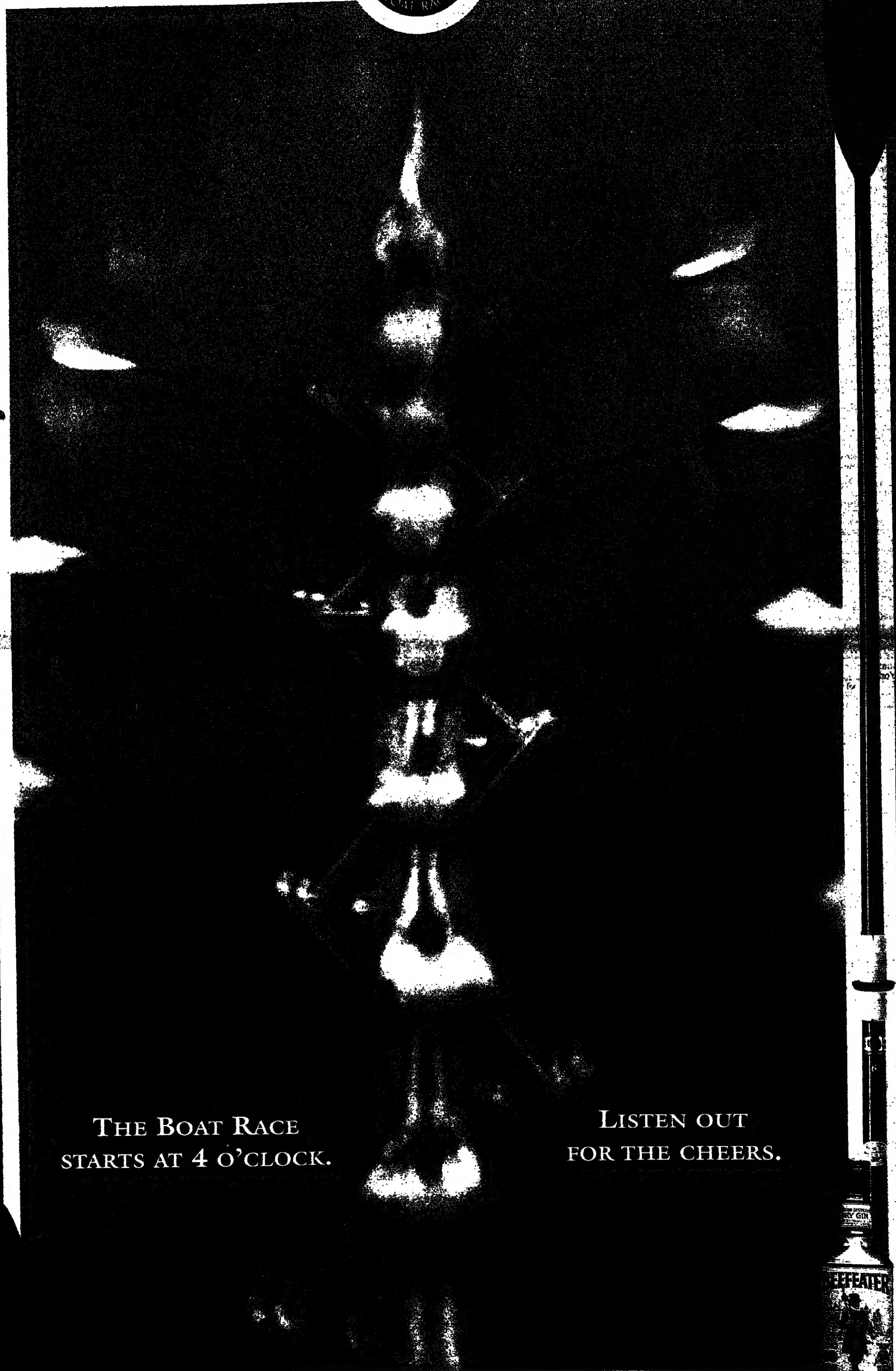
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Lord Rothschild: Talks have been embarrassing





THE BOAT RACE  
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FOR THE CHEERS.

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE. SPONSORED BY BEEFEATER GIN.



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## Two Irishmen face charges on Kent barracks bombing

By David Sapsted

TWO Irishmen will be charged within two weeks in connection with last year's IRA bombing of the Deal barracks in Kent in which 11 Royal Marine bandmen died. Lawyers for the Crown Prosecution Service were yesterday studying papers that senior Kent detectives say will lead to charges.

The two men, from Dublin and Belfast, are in custody on other charges. The breakthrough for officers investigating the explosion last September at the Royal Marines' School of Music came earlier this week with what one senior officer described as "the uncovering of vital new evidence".

A squad of Kent detectives has been attempting to track down the bombers since a bandmen's recreation and changing room was destroyed by the IRA bomb. Ten musicians died immediately and the eleven in October.

The search has concentrated on two Irishmen who rented a holiday home in Campbell Road, Deal, ostensibly for a fortnight's fishing, less than three weeks before the explosion.

The house backs on to the barracks and it was from there that the bombers are thought to have planted the device almost a week before it went off.

A woman is also being sought in connection with the explosion but detectives said they had yet to learn her identity or whereabouts.

It is believed she may have been a courier who arrived at Dover from the Continent by ferry and left the country by the same route before the explosion.

Since the bombing, Kent officers have made extensive inquiries throughout Britain and undertaken complicated cross-checking of computer records.

Identikit pictures of the men who rented the Campbell Road house have also been produced.

The first break in the inquiry occurred shortly before Christmas when two men were arrested at the site of an arms cache on the west Wales coast at Newgale. Armed officers from Dyfed-Powys police and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad had kept watch

on the site for seven weeks before the two men, one of them allegedly armed with a shotgun, arrived there on the evening of December 21.

The arms cache included 100 pounds of Semtex explosive, automatic rifles and pistols, and detonators and timers. In a follow-up operation in the Luton area of Bedfordshire, another 15lb of the explosive were found at what detectives believed was an IRA "safe" house.

Other equipment, including wires, batteries and connectors, were also found in underground in January less than a mile from the site of the original arms find.

Officially, Kent police will neither confirm that charges are imminent nor that they are questioning any suspects. Privately, senior detectives said they were "delighted" with developments.

They have believed all along that the perpetrators were not among known IRA terrorists but were part of a new, young breed trained in the Republic and sent to Britain and the Continent last summer to carry out attacks.

## Sculpted prophecy for US cathedral



Simon Verity, a British sculptor, standing next to a column of the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine in New York city. He has been commissioned to carve major and minor prophets for the great central portal of the building. Started in 1892, it will be the world's largest Gothic cathedral once construction is complete.

## Half-day strike for Telecom managers

BRITISH Telecom, which has announced a restructuring programme that could lead to 3,000 middle management redundancies, faces a half-day strike by the Society of Telecom Executives, the management trade union, next Friday.

The society has called the strike, after a ballot of its 30,000 members, over a dispute about pay offers for the past two years and a proposed new grading structure. Negotiations on the new management restructuring plans have yet to be opened.

## Falklands zone

Britain's 150-mile protection zone around the Falkland Islands will be lifted today, eight years after the Argentine invasion (Michael Evans writes). Each side will give 25 days' notice of military manoeuvres in certain areas.

Review Section, page 34

## Boy detained

A boy, aged 14, who raped two girls aged 12 was ordered at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to be detained for three years. His friend, aged 16, was sentenced to nine months' custody for raping one of the girls at the Stockell Park Estate, south London, last August.

## Father jailed

Stephen Fox, aged 23, who shook his daughter Stephanie, aged three, so violently by the hair that she scalped her, was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. The court was told that another child fathered by Fox had met its death at his hands in 1983.

## Doctor Hardy

Robert Hardy, who plays the vet Siegfried Farnon in the television series *All Creatures Great and Small*, yesterday exchanged his deerstalker for a scholar's cap and gown when he was made an honorary doctor of letters by the University of Reading.

## Editor's contempt charge dismissed

IAN Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*, was jubilant yesterday after escaping a jail sentence or fine in the High Court for alleged contempt over libellous stories about Mrs Sonia Sutcliffe.

Mr Justice Popplewell dismissed an attempt by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, to commit or fine both Mr Hislop and the publishers of the magazine over two articles which cost them £100,000 in damages. He said he would give his reasons at a later date.

The articles appeared in the magazine in February 1989, three months before the wife of the Yorkshire Ripper won £600,000 in libel damages against the magazine.

Outside court Mr Hislop said: "I had my toothbrush in my pocket but now it will not be needed. I don't feel like a banana. Myself and *Private Eye* have been vindicated. I always said it was not what I had intended."

The Attorney General claimed the two articles, which wrongly alleged that Mrs Sutcliffe had knowingly given her husband, Peter Sutcliffe, a false alibi and had defamed the DHSS, were intended to prejudice the trial.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC, for the Attorney General, said the editor and the publishers had breached the 1981 Contempt of Court Act. He said it was an attempt to "prejudice the course of justice and prejudice potential jurors".

But the attempt "badly backfired" and Mrs Sutcliffe was awarded the enormous sum of £600,000 libel damages against the magazine in May last year, later cut to £60,000 on appeal.

The two articles were published before the hearing took place and Mr Collins said it was an attempt to deter and dissuade Mrs Sutcliffe from bringing the action.

In the witness box, Mr Hislop said it was not his intention to prejudice the trial or put pressure on Mrs Sutcliffe.

He said he "very much regretted" that the articles had been published and wished to apologize to the court.

## French report points to trial for Eksund five

By Janie Dettmer

THE five-man Irish crew of the Eksund, the freighter caught off Brittany in 1987 shipping arms, surface-to-air missiles and Semtex explosive from Libya to the IRA, look set to be sent for trial on terrorism charges in Paris, it emerged yesterday.

A 4,000-page report by the French investigating judge into the Eksund, which was intercepted carrying 150 tonnes of weaponry valued at £15 million, has been forwarded to prosecutors for the drawing up of charges.

The report is understood to confirm that the Eksund was the fifth in a series of arms shipments from Libya to the IRA. It also establishes that high-ranking Libyan officials supervised the transfer of weapons and explosives on to freighters destined for the IRA in 1985 and 1986.

According to a report in yesterday's *Economist*, there were three senior Libyan officials overseeing the trade. One of them was involved in negotiating the release of the staff at the Libyan People's Bureau in London after the shooting of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher in 1984.

The five Irishmen arrested on board the Eksund in October 1987 have been held for the past two years in Paris. They have been moved regularly between three prisons - La Sante, Fresnes and Fleury-Merogis. They are believed to have refused to co-operate with the inquiry carried out by M Jean-Louis Bruguiere, the investigating judge.

The five are: Adrian Hopkins, aged 49, the Eksund's captain, from Dublin, who had shipped the four previous arms shipments from Libya; Henry Cairns from Co Wicklow; Gabriel Cleary, aged 45, from Priortown, Co Dublin, who was a top bomb-maker in the IRA; James Doherty, aged 44, an electrician from Co Donegal and a known IRA member; and James Coll, aged 36, another known IRA member from Co Donegal. Apart from Mr Hopkins and Mr Cairns, all the

other crew members travelled on false passports taken from a batch of 100 stolen from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in 1984.

The four shipments from Libya in 1985 and 1986 are believed to have amounted to at least 120 tonnes. The first was in August 1985 carried aboard the Casamara, a converted yacht, which was loaded with 10 tonnes of weaponry during a rendezvous off the Maltese island of Gozo with the Libyan ship Samra Africa.

The cargo, comprising 500 boxes, contained Soviet-made Kalashnikov AK47 rifles, Taurus automatic pistols, hand-grenades and seven Belgian-made rocket-propelled-grenade launchers. The Casamara unloaded at Clogga Strand, 40 miles south of Dublin.

In October 1985 the Casamara appeared again, renamed the Kula. It carried a further 10 tonnes of equipment to Clogga Strand, including Soviet-made 12.7mm heavy anti-aircraft machine-guns, known as Dushkars.

In July 1986, the Kula shipped 14 tonnes of weapons to the Irish Republic; that time the cargo included two Sam-7 missiles. The last known completed arms shipment was made in September 1986 by a bigger vessel, the Villa. More than 80 tonnes of weaponry was loaded on board the Villa off Tripoli. The cargo included Czech-made Semtex explosive and 10 Sam-7s.

A new independent legal appeals body is to be set up in the Irish Republic to examine possible miscarriages of justice. The Government has accepted a report commissioned by Mr Ray Burke, the Justice Minister, after the Guildford Four case last year.

Legislation is expected to be introduced shortly and this could become law by the end of the year.

The report also recommends that the questioning of suspects in police stations should take place before a video recorder.

## Plot trial hears of police pressure

SOPHIA Wilberforce told the Birmingham Crown Court yesterday that vicious police interrogation made her paint a false picture of her aunt.

Pressure during eight hours of interviews led her to portray Lady Margaret Illingworth as drunk, the court was told.

Miss Wilberforce said: "It was very difficult to even form sentences. Detective Constable Longmore was very, very vicious. I could not think straight."

Mr Timothy Barnes, QC, for the prosecution, suggested to Miss Wilberforce that both she and her mother had sought to portray Lady Illingworth as a "woman who drank to great excess" as a means of offloading her on to the authorities.

He told the court that Baroness Susan de Stempel told doctors at Hereford Hospital that Lady Illingworth was an alcoholic and that she had been trying

to stop her drinking heavily since February 1984.

Baron Michael de Stempel, aged 60, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, and Miss Lady Illingworth, aged 27, all deny conspiring to steal Lady Margaret Illingworth's £500,000 fortune.

Baroness Susan de Stempel has pleaded guilty to five charges of theft and two of forgery.

The court heard that Lady Illingworth was admitted to hospital in December 1984 after allegedly smashing the windows of the family home in Docklow, Hereford and Worcester, with a hammer.

Miss Wilberforce said: "When I was interviewed by police it was difficult to think about anything other than the image the policeman behind me was portraying."

"I did say that I had seen my great aunt

drunk, but that was not true. She was tipsy, and it was a mistake to say that she was drunk." Miss Wilberforce said she thought doctors had told her mother that Lady Illingworth had a drink problem.

She said she described her great aunt's housekeeper, Miss Cathy Wheelton, as "cruel and malicious" because they were words suggested by police.

Mr Barnes suggested that Miss Wilberforce had known of her great aunt's wealth before she went to live with her in London in 1982. He went on to say that Miss Wilberforce had attempted to find out more about Lady Illingworth's finances by searching through one of her handbags, which was found by the housekeeper under her bed.

Miss Wilberforce said: "I don't remember the incident. My great aunt had lots of handbags."

The trial continues on Monday.

## Life for killers in M25 rampage

THREE "evil and dangerous" members of a gang that terrorized people living near the M25 were yesterday jailed for life for murder.

During the last three months of 1988, one man was killed to death; another almost died after being stabbed; a young mother was raped in her own bed; a policeman escaped death by ducking when a gun was fired at him from 4ft, and more than 20 homes were ransacked.

An elderly woman was told that if she did not hand over her rings, her fingers would be cut off.

Randolph Johnson, aged 25, of no fixed address; Michael Davis, aged 23, and Raphael Rowe, aged 22, both of Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham, south-east London, were jailed for life by the Central Criminal Court for murdering Mr Peter Hurburgh, who was dragged out of his car at gunpoint. Mr Hurburgh and a friend were tied up and gagged, and when Mr Hurburgh refused to hand over his cash the gang kicked him and jumped on his chest, smashing his rib cage.

The two men were doused with petrol and one of the gang walked round them with a match. Mr Hurburgh, who had a weak heart, died as a result of the attack.

Later that night, the trio broke into the home of Mr Richard Napier, a retired busi-

ness, who with his son Tim fought the intruders. Mr Tim Napier was stabbed in the chest, back and arm. An artery was severed. Mr Justice Auld said it was only the surgeon's skill that saved him.

Police Constable Adrian Hook was shot by Johnson after a high-speed chase, but went on to arrest the gunman. Besides the life sentence, Johnson was jailed for 15 years for robbery, rape, and causing grievous bodily harm. The sentences are to run concurrently.

The rape victim was a woman in her thirties who, with her husband, woke at 3.15 am to find the trio had broken into their Surrey home. The couple were tied up and blindfolded, and Johnson raped the woman on her bed. Afterwards, he told her: "I'm sorry. Don't hate me."

Rowe and Davis were also given concurrent 15-year sentences for robbery, causing grievous bodily harm, and firearms offences.

Jason Cooper, aged 20, also of Lawrie Park Road, who joined the gang for some of the raids, was jailed for seven years for burglary and robbery.

The judge told Johnson, Davis and Rowe they had indulged in an orgy of violence: "You are three evil and dangerous men. You struck terror into your victims."

## Alert for nuns after city attack

By Kerry Gill

POLICE were last night hunting a man who carried out a sexual assault on a nun, aged 41, in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, as she was on her way to a Bible class.

She was forced into a car and taken to the park, but later freed by the man, said to be well-dressed with an English accent.

Det Supt Joe Jackson said the nun hailed a taxi and was taken to her convent before being transferred to hospital where she underwent treatment for "serious injuries".

"This is a bizarre, unusual and desperate attack and there is a distinct possibility it was targeted. I am concerned for the safety of nuns in the city. At the moment we are looking at all aspects of nuns' safety," Mr Jackson said.

The attack occurred on Monday evening but police disclosed the details only yesterday.

Police are looking for a tall, well-dressed Englishman in his mid-40s.

Father Tom Connelly, spokesman for the Catholic Church in Scotland, said: "Any act of violence against a woman has to be deplored, but this one seems to be particularly dreadful. We must pray for this man's health as he obviously is very sick and has a severe problem."

## Pollution 'worse than recognized'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

POLLUTION in the North Sea and its impact on fisheries and other marine life is greater than previously recognized, according to the results of an investigation that ended yesterday.

The findings come from an exploration by eight research vessels and 70 scientists from all of the countries bordering the North Sea, and the United States and Canada, to test new and more precise methods for measuring contamination in living organisms.

Dr Tony Stebbing, from the Natural Environment Research Council's Plymouth Marine Laboratory and leader of the British group, believes less than 1 per cent of the estimated 50,000 contaminants in the marine environment is measured by chemical analysis.

Furthermore, chemical analysis cannot test for the "cocktail" effect of contaminants in which the combined toxicity to living organisms of tiny concentrations of pollutants is increased several times.

The new methods of biological monitoring tested over the past three weeks are based largely on techniques developed at Plymouth.

The results were discussed at the end of the voyages yesterday at a meeting at the Alfred Wegener Institute at Bremerhaven, West Ger-

many, when the researchers adopted the biological measurements as the most sensitive indicator of threats to marine life.

It should end disputes between scientists about the interpretation of each other's measurements because of the different analytical techniques in use.

● The squelching, rotting algae that lurks off the northern Adriatic coast, threatening to submerge the local Italian tourist industry this summer, is to be held at bay by a nylon boom developed by Alfa International of Aberdeen (Kerry Gill writes).

A barrier will be anchored 600 metres out to sea to prevent the mass of pale brown sludge, creeping towards some of Europe's most popular beaches.

The first consignment of equipment, which will be used to build the boom, leaves Scotland for Italy today.

The contracts, worth more than £600,000, have been awarded to Alfa by a number of local authorities virtually panic-stricken by the prospect of tourists disappearing in their droves.

Mr John McMurtrie, the company's managing director, said: "We are confident that our barriers will prevent the algae from polluting the tourist beaches."

## Judges clear man of Notting Hill murder

A MAN jailed for life for murdering a street trader in a row over a can of Coca-Cola at the 1987 Notting Hill carnival was cleared by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

Alban Turner, aged 26, walked to freedom amid clapping and cheering from a court crowded with his supporters after the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, branded the main prosecution witness in the case a "lying witness".

Lord Lane, who heard the appeal with Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Judge, directed that a transcript of the fresh evidence given to the Appeal Court by Mr Kevin Sarbutts earlier this month should be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Sarbutts, of Elmridge, Steinerdale, Lancashire, first came forward to implicate Mr Turner two months after the stabbing of Michael Galvin. During the appeal he said he had lied at the trial because of police pressure.

Lord Lane said: "On any view Sarbutts has perjured himself by committing deliberate perjury. Either he wickedly

caused a conviction of murder by voluntarily giving false evidence or, equally wickedly, he has now procured the release from prison of the man he knows to be guilty."

It would be pointless to order Mr Turner to undergo another trial for murder. His conviction was "unsatisfactory". The judge also rejected all allegations of police impropriety levelled by Mr Sarbutts.

Pandemonium erupted in the corridor outside the court as news of the verdict reached supporters. They were joined by singing and cheering members of Mr Turner's family.

Mr Turner, asked how he felt when he heard Lord Lane's decision, said: "I was absolutely delighted."

Mrs Susan Staveley, his solicitor, said: "He has maintained his innocence since the day he was arrested. Now we are happy to see a miscarriage of justice has been righted."

Mr Turner, who had his murder conviction quashed and sentence set aside, was ordered to serve a minimum 20 years of a life jail sentence by Judge Verney at Aylesbury Crown Court in December



Alban Turner giving a clenched-fist salute as he is hugged by his mother outside court after being freed

1988, after an abortive trial at the Central Criminal Court. Lord Lane said Mr Sarbutts had been a crucial witness at the Central Criminal Court and at Aylesbury. He identified Mr Turner as the killer.

But on the first anniversary of the conviction, Mr Sarbutts retracted his sworn evidence, Lord Lane said. Mr Sarbutts

the Central Criminal Court and Aylesbury was given voluntarily and was not the result of police misconduct."

Mr Sarbutts was highly intelligent, unprincipled and unreliable, Lord Lane said.

The Appeal Court rejected his allegations that he had been bribed and beaten up by the police and had given £500 from his £6,500 reward to a senior officer.

The court had been troubled by the non-disclosure of Mr Sarbutts's full criminal record at the trials. Also worrying was the inability of the Central Criminal Court jury to reach a verdict. The prosecution had depended entirely upon Mr Sarbutts. Lord Lane said: "We believe that Sarbutts is a lying witness."

"Given the crucial importance of this evidence from a self-confessed liar to Turner's conviction, and with the background of the previous jury disagreement and the fact that the second jury did not have quite the whole of the material evidence about his previous convictions, we have come to the conclusion that this conviction is not satisfactory."

Lord Lane said: "We are convinced his evidence before

## Pop duo spent £700,000 in 18 months, court told

By Robin Young

THE squeaky clean, crocheted blond twins who constitute the pop group Bros are out of control in their spending, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday. So much so that Luke and Matt Goss are in a "serious" financial position, counsel for 3 Style Ltd, their former management company, claimed.

At a preliminary hearing in a legal battle between the twins and 3 Style, the company's counsel, Mr Mark Cran QC, said the brothers had spent almost £700,000 in the space of 18 months.

Between April 1988 and October 1989, Mr Cran said that the brothers, now aged 21, drew £693,000 for their personal spending. They spent £83,000 on limousines, £117,000 on personal security, £164,000 on clothes, and £83,000 on travel.

Mr Cran said the brothers' record company, CBS, appeared to be "over a million pounds unrecovered". If the

court did not continue a High Court order requiring Bros to pay £63,000 into a special account as security until Style 3's case against them comes to court, that money too was likely to be spent by the brothers.

He said Bros and 3 Style had made an agreement that the company should receive 20 per cent commission on the stars' gross earnings. The management agreement was terminated by the brothers, who alleged breach of contract. The company, while not attempting to enforce the management terms of the agreement, was still claiming its 20 per cent until the date the contract should have expired, late next year.

The main hearing of the dispute is expected to take place in June or July. Earlier this month, a deputy High Court judge made an interim order that the brothers should pay a lump sum of £63,000 and then £6,000 a month into an account to be held pending the full hearing. The £63,000

was due to be paid by the end of this month.

Mr Cran said: "Nobody is in control of these artists. If they keep this money, they will simply spend it on cars and everything they have spent it on to this date, and we will never see it."

Lords Justice Russell and Leggatt granted Mr George Newman QC, counsel for Bros, a suspension of the High Court order pending an appeal on April 9.

A Newman read a sworn statement by Mr Matt Goss saying their income had consisted of £30,000 a month from CBS until July this year.

They were due to be paid a £70,000 lump sum by CBS, but at least half of this would be used to pay part of almost £60,000 already owed by the brothers to American Express.

After July, Bros would have no other income until their third album was completed at the end of this year. The brothers did not have anything like £63,000 that could be paid by April 1.



## Economic policy is working, Tories told

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

AN ASSURANCE that Britain's economic prospects will improve considerably by the time next year was given to the Conservative Central Council in Cheltenham yesterday.

Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government must not flinch from tough political decisions.

Although high interest rates brought their difficulties, the problems were nothing compared with those associated with higher inflation.

The Government's policy was working and once excess demands had been removed, the economy would resume its upward trend with a lower inflation rate.

"By this time next year, the prospects will look distinctly brighter. People will look back then and welcome our firmness now."

Mr Lamont said that interest rates policy would work, although it had taken longer than expected to slow down the economy.

Reducing inflation was a matter of political will. "We are determined to reduce it. We can do it. We did it before and we will do it again," he said.

Inflation was the central

problem: "We must get inflation down because everything else, investment, employment, a healthy and competitive industry, depends upon it."

"Inflation is a social evil, it hits the poor and those on fixed incomes. It disrupts industrial relations, undermines company balance sheets, distorts investment and creates savers."

He gave a warning against the siren voices that argued that the country could live with inflation. Acceptance of modest inflation today became acceptance of higher inflation tomorrow. "That is why we have a tight fiscal policy and a tight monetary policy which we are determined to sustain."

"The truth is our economy needs to slow down after the extraordinary growth of recent years. That pause began last year and will continue this year. But it is surely not too much to ask the British people or British business to accept a pause for breath after such rapid and unprecedented growth."

The Government was not relying solely on interest rates to cure inflation. Britain had one of the tightest fiscal positions in the world; public spending was firmly



Mr Michael Heseltine, with Sir John Sticks on his left, fields press questions about his leadership ambitions

under control, and Britain had a surplus of taxes over spending greater than any country except Japan.

Mr Lamont said there was no better ground on which to fight Labour at the next election than on inflation.

"They have no policy to tackle it and their public statements on it are a fraud. It is for our country's sake that we cannot afford to fail."

"If we do not have the resolution and the nerve to see our policies through, they will

believe that privatization, enterprise and incentive have all failed. We would be deserting the principles which have served this country well for a decade and have gone on to be increasingly accepted throughout the world."

Earlier there was strong backing for the Government's attempts to bear down on inflation by the use of high interest rates.

Commuter chaos in the Conservative heartlands in the South-east was jeopardizing

the party's prospects at the next general election.

Congested roads, overcrowded trains and soaring rail fares were increasingly becoming an electoral issue, representatives said during the transport debate.

Mrs Jo Hawkes, of Ashford, Kent, said the country had returned all Conservative MPs at the last general election, but efforts to repeat that achievement were being undermined by the lack of government interest in the

railways. "Many of our supporters are commuters. Railways were in a deplorable condition, timetables were slower than 18 years ago and trains were dirtier than at any time in the past decade."

Mr Mike Hughes, of Arundel, a British Rail, demanded the reinstatement of government subsidies for the railways, more investment in rolling stock, improved safety measures, and extra manpower for British Transport Police.

## Tebbit comes out fighting for mantle of the right

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

MICHAEL HESELTINE has Europe, Norman Tebbit has Hong Kong. The publication next week of the Bill giving British passports to 225,000 citizens of the colony will ensure that the leadership bid that Mr Tebbit launched on Thursday with 20 words to the Press Association gathers pace through the summer.

Mr Tebbit has already put himself at the head of 80 Tory MPs, mostly from the right but including some centrists and left wingers, committed to halting the legislation and so dealing another blow to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's waning authority.

It is from that faction that the former chairman of the Conservative Party will hope to draw initial support as he marshals his troops for the leadership election that may never come. On Hong Kong, Mr Tebbit's lieutenants are Mr John Birtcher, the centre right former junior minister, and Mr Bowen Wells, the moderate Tory MP for Hertford and Stortford.

Neither is thought to be a natural Tebbit supporter in a contest precipitated by Mrs Thatcher's premature retirement, but the creation of the group gives some idea of Mr Tebbit's likely tactics as he advances himself as a right-wing standard bearer in a putative contest with Mr Heseltine. He will seek to build his support, estimated yesterday at no more than 25-30 backbenchers compared with about 100-150 for Mr Heseltine, by identifying himself with an agenda that offers attractions to the right.

Conservative MPs yesterday responded with varying degrees of horror, dismay and delight to Mr Tebbit's confirmation of what has been widely known at Westminster since the 1987 general election and his resignation from the Cabinet — that he has not foregone his ambitions.

As one well-connected right-winger put it: "Norman Tebbit has always been the vehicle for Mr Tebbit's leadership ambitions; a point recognized by his opponents, who include some also on the libertarian right, whose determination to support Mrs Thatcher over the issue is fuelled by the belief that defeat will finish him."

Insiders predicted that he will be looking for other controversial issues, possibly by acting as a rallying point for diehard anti-market opposition to a prime ministerial

U-turn later in the year on British membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

Deep controversy over the issue could undermine further Mrs Thatcher's position and so enhance the still remote possibility that she will be forced to stand down. There are few at Westminster, especially among those with more than a passing acquaintance with the pre-eminent street-fighter in British politics, who accept Mr Tebbit's protestations of loyalty to Mrs Thatcher.

They believe that while he remains a friend ideologically, he has never forgiven her for the way she treated him as Tory chairman and campaign mastermind during the election. On top of that, the ambition of a man who clawed his way to the top from the humblest of beginnings should never be underestimated.

As one senior backbencher put it: "He wants to be leader and he does not care who he kills to get it. This is more anti-Thatcher than it is anti-Heseltine."

Some conspiracy theorists even thought that Mr Tebbit's intervention was calculated to help Mr Heseltine. But the overall reaction from the kind of quarters where Mr Tebbit needs to draw support would have given him little encouragement. Leading members of the 80-strong 92 Group of Tory backbenchers, Mrs Thatcher's self-styled praetorian guard, many of whom are now toying with a Heseltine or Kenneth Baker candidacy if their champion were to retire, were privately critical of Mr Tebbit. They predicted that he would be no more than a "spoiling candidate", siphoning off votes from Mr Heseltine.

Mr Teddy Taylor, another right winger and anti-market, and Sir Marcus Fox, a vice-chairman of the 1922 executive, both robustly defended Mr Tebbit's intervention, insisting it was designed to stop Mr Heseltine from unseating the Prime Minister.

In the final analysis, Mr Tebbit would be the only candidate offering the party a continuation of the radicalism that has marked the past decade plus a ferocious contempt for backsliding on social policy. His eventual degree of support would be a barometer of how many of his colleagues still believe that can remain a winning formula.

## Timing of leadership stake appeals party

By Andrew Pierce

REACTION on the conference floor to Mr Norman Tebbit's leadership declaration was one of despair. Representatives from the left and right of the party were appalled by the timing of the announcement.

Labour's record lead in the opinion polls, the community charge and high interest rates had already cast a bad light over the proceedings at Cheltenham Town Hall.

Any lingering hopes that the conference would revive the battered spirit of the rank and file were snuffed out by the latest bout of speculation over Mrs Thatcher's position as leader of the party.

In spite of attempts by the Tory high command to play down Mr Tebbit's announcement, the spectre of Mr

Heseltine loomed large over the conference. There was sharp criticism during the debate on the economy of Conservative MPs who were plotting to oust Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Simon Pearce, of Newham North West, said: "The party is the subject of a cold-blooded attempt to break its nerve and sap its confidence in the Prime Minister."

Mr David Evans, from Cardiff Central, urged the party to maintain strong leadership in the run-up to the next General Election. With the changes in Europe strong leadership was more important than at any time since the Second World War. He said: "It is the Prime Minister who provides us and the nation with that strong leadership."

## Prince plans to transform a town

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

PRINCETOWN, the bleak moorland town known best for its proximity to Dartmoor prison, is to undergo a transformation by courtesy of its landlord, the Prince of Wales.

The Duchy of Cornwall is to unveil this weekend its proposals to bring more homes, jobs and a better shopping centre to the town.

It will mount an exhibition in the Duchy Hotel and hold a forum to hear the views of local people on what it plans. Talks have already been held with local planners and the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

It is hoped that the scheme will help to increase the population from 700 to 1,000.

Many of the houses in the town have been sold to their tenants.

The Duchy, however, owns nearly 50 houses which have stood empty for several years, some of them derelict after being abandoned as prison officers' homes.

They will be refurbished or rebuilt, and in addition the Duchy is to make land available for new private sector housing.

The Prince has taken a close interest in the town, visiting both the prison and the local public house *The Prince of Wales*, and his advisers have promised that houses will be offered at "affordable prices".

Under the proposals for the transformation there will be more workshops and car parks, and also mentioned is the possibility of turning the present prison officers' mess into a visitors' centre.

The overall scheme will take five years to complete, and it is hoped to start work this year.

## Labour lists Tory candidates for capping

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

THE Labour Party yesterday published a list of about 20 councils controlled by Conservatives which it said were candidates to have their community charge capped.

Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow Environment Secretary, issued the list in the wake of reports that the list of charge-capped local authorities that the Government is expected to issue next week will include few if any under Conservative control.

Mr David Hunt, the local government minister, said on BBC Radio 4 that no final decision had been taken.

He said: "We do not look at the political complexion of a council. We look under the terms of the legislation at whether or not we have the power to exercise the charge capping

responsibilities given to us by Parliament in order to move in and protect people."

Mr Gould said however that the Government was "trying to reopen an argument it has already lost".

He said that all the evidence suggested that there was very little difference between the behaviour of Labour and Conservative councils in setting the community charge.

Although Labour totally rejected capping, which would lead to "deep cuts in services", Mr Gould said that the Government had to be seen to act impartially. He would wait "with interest" to see how many of the 20 Conservative councils he named would be included on the Government's list.

Mr Gould's list included Mid Devon, Dartford, Leominster, Ply-

mouth, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Elmbridge, Reigate and Banstead, South Oxfordshire, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Northampton, Kingston, Berkshire, Plymouth, Kensington and Chelsea, Suffolk, Solihull, Brentwood, Torbay, Charnwood and Northbury.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, called the poll tax a "cruel con trick" when he visited Worcester yesterday (Alan Taylor writes).

On his first visit to the city, Mr Kinnock told poll tax protesters that voters had seen through the Government's trick. "They've seen through the council's fault, and they know the tax is profoundly unfair because it takes no account of ability to pay."

Mr Kinnock was aiming to boost Labour's general election chances in

the Worcester constituency after the unexpected resignation of the incumbent, Mr Peter Walker, who is Secretary of State for Wales.

He met a poll tax protester named Margaret Thatcher, a mother of four, who faces paying an extra £428 a year. She told him that the tax made it difficult for mothers to stay at home with their children.

Mr Christopher Chope, the junior local government minister, announced yesterday that the Government intended to amend the law to exempt owners of holiday caravans from poll tax.

The Local Government Finance Act 1988 would be amended to ensure that caravans not occupied as a main residence would be treated as "non-domestic" and subject to the business rate.

## Ruling on double poll tax criticized

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A POLL tax regulation which allows a local authority to charge landlords up to double the individual charge for empty properties was described yesterday as "ludicrous" by Mr Geoffrey Cutting, chairman of the Small Landlords Association.

He said there would inevitably be times when properties were vacant, and the penalty would be worst in bedsitler land where a house was divided into several flats. "If one becomes vacant the landlord will then have to pay up to double the poll tax."

Under the Government's regulations, the local authority can charge up to a maximum of twice the fixed charge, and most have gone for the double option for an empty furnished property. For an unfurnished property the landlord is given three months' grace before a charge is made.

Mr Cutting said: "There is a danger that this will adversely affect the private rentals mar-

ket and deter landlords, but in practice it may not be as serious as it looks. Landlords could bring in friends to occupy the empty flats to avoid the charge. This might lead to a floating army of poll tax occupiers."

His view was challenged by the Association of Residential Letting Agents. Mr Alan Thurlow, spokesman for the association, said the regulation "does exactly the right thing" for the letting market.

"The Government, tenant, reasonable landlord and letting agent do not want these properties to be left empty, and if they are empty it means the landlord has priced himself out of the market."

He said: "Under the previous system, a landlord would have to pay the rates if the property was vacant, and now he will pay the community charge. It should encourage landlords to charge a reasonable and realistic rent, and then properties will let."

## Aftermath of Hillsborough still disrupting the police

By Peter Davenport

THE aftermath of the Hillsborough football stadium disaster is continuing to affect the operational effectiveness of the police force which bore the brunt of the blame for the tragedy, its Chief Constable said yesterday.

Mr Peter Wright said that the legal consequences would go on well into the 1990s. Mr Wright, who is to retire at the end of next month, made his comments in the foreword to his last annual report in charge of the South Yorkshire Police.

In his report published yesterday, he said that the "shadow" of Hillsborough, in which 95 Liverpool supporters lost their lives in the crush on the Leppings Lane terraces, had in a public sense, but obscured the normal work of the force.

"Furthermore, the financial cost of Hillsborough has had a marked effect on resources and consequently upon our

effectiveness during the year." He said that at the beginning of the last financial year his force had a budget cut of 2 per cent, a reduction of nearly £2 million in its funds. It led to cuts in the vehicle fleet, overtime, training and building maintenance.

Later in the year, because of the decision to commit £1



Mr Peter Wright: Force still troubled by disaster

million from the operational contingency fund to pay for the costs of the Hillsborough inquiry, a stop was put on police and civilian recruitment and a further £300,000 cut from the vehicle replacement programme.

Mr Wright said it was against that background that the results of 1989 had to be judged. Recorded crime in the force area rose by 6.06 per cent, while the detection rate fell from 46.46 per cent to 43.44 per cent.

Mr Wright said that the on-going effects of Hillsborough would continue "for some considerable time to come".

The West Midlands police has yet to submit its report to the Director of Public Prosecutions on whether there should be criminal prosecutions as a result of the tragedy, and that meant that the inquests on those who died were unlikely to be concluded before the end of this year.

## Kidney men 'tried only to save lives'

By John Young

IF more people carried kidney donor cards the three doctors found to have acquiesced or taken part in the sale of kidneys for transplant operations would not be in the position they were, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Mr Anthony Arledge was addressing the council's professional conduct committee on behalf of Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street kidney specialist. The committee found a number of allegations proven against Dr Crockett, Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, who are charged with serious professional misconduct.

Mr Arledge said that what Dr Crockett did sprang from the dreadful and tragic condition of the patients waiting to receive kidneys.

Dr Crockett erred, he said, because he wanted to save the life of a patient in a

chronic condition," he said. It would be quite wrong to end his professional life.

The records would show that these doctors, faced with an appalling dilemma in the summer of 1988, were trying to save lives.

Mr John Kirkham, a surgeon who knew Dr Crockett through working at the Humana Wellington Hospital in St Johns Wood, north London, told the committee he had an excellent reputation as a clinician. He frequently visited patients in intensive care, and dealt with them carefully and competently.

Mr John Goldring, QC, for Mr Joyce, the donor surgeon, said: "His [Mr Joyce's] integrity has not been touched by these proceedings. He was not involved for money, he told no lies, he did not deceive any fellow doctor." While Mr Joyce would not for one moment wish to evade his responsibility, the committee might conclude that he was the least culpable of the three doctors.

The hearing continues today.

## Consumer Bill pruned to avoid rejection

A 23-clause Bill to provide consumers with better guarantees and to reform the law on sale and supply of goods was cut down by 15 clauses by its Labour sponsor to save it from being "talked out" in the House of Commons yesterday.

The remnant, which will provide only an improved definition of merchantable quality, was then given an unopposed third reading.

The Consumer Guarantees Bill was subjected to long procedural debate about the delay in carrying a money resolution authorizing the spending of public money on one of the clauses.

At the end of the day's debate, Mr Martin Jones (Clwyd South West, Lab), sponsor of the Bill, moved amendments to delete from the Bill the clauses strengthening the law on guarantees, saying that he would rather the House accepted the shortened Bill than have the whole Bill lost.

Mr Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Consumer Affairs, said that he had never been happy with the Bill because of its serious flaws and difficulties. He would look at the whole area of guarantees to see what properly could be done.

Discussion of the final stages of the Bill was delayed from the beginning of the day's sitting by

procedural argument about whether the House should deal with one clause of the Bill in committee of the House. The clause had not been passed in the standing committee because of an error in not passing a money resolution earlier.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C) said that there was no precedent for a private Member's Bill to be recommended to a committee of the whole House because of such a mistake.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that the money resolution had been passed on Tuesday night. There was no procedural obligation on the House to re-commit the Bill to the standing committee, but a committee of the whole House could regularize the situation now.

Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C) described the situation as "monstrous". He objected to the clause on enforcement being dealt with retrospectively now. The Bill was defective.

The sponsor of the Bill, Mr Martin Jones, must take responsibility for the error.

Mr Nigel Griffiths, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, accused the Conservatives of an orchestrated attempt to sabotage the Bill and to ensure that the rights of producers were protected by

vested interests". Mr David Wilshire (Spelthorne, C) said that was nonsense. It was possible to be concerned about procedural matters without being against the objectives of the Bill.

It was dangerous to play fast and loose with the procedures of a sovereign Parliament just because the intentions of a Bill were laudable. Mr Roger Gale (Thanet North, C), a supporter of the Bill, said that it was seeking to give consumer guarantees which were worth the paper they were written on, to see that they were written clearly and meant something.

The Commons should not

send out a message that it wished to kill this Bill or that it was unconcerned about the need for better consumer protection through proper guarantees.

Mr Forth said that nobody in the standing committee had realized that a money resolution was required.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) said that Mr Forth was making clear that the Government did not want the Bill. "He has organized this lot [Conservative MPs]. They are filibustering instead of making progress."

Mr Forth said that he had done his best to discharge his responsibilities honourably.

"Towards the end of last week, we established beyond reasonable doubt that a money resolution was required for the Bill. I was then told that this had to be done, by convention, by the Government and in Government time."

"I have never been happy with this Bill. I always thought that it contained serious flaws and difficulties. My advice has always been that it was probably irredeemable and irrecoverable."

The Government still wanted to update the Sale of Goods Act and he therefore supported part of the Bill which would do that. He would look at the whole area of guarantees to see what properly could be done.

The motion to recommend the

clause was carried by 85 votes to nil.

After further debate, the motion to hold the committee stage on the clause immediately was carried by 77 votes to nil.

On the report stage, Mr Jones moved one of a series of amendments to delete all the consumer guarantee aspects.

He said he did this with regret but thought it preferable to seeing MPs "talk out" his proposals.

The amendments were agreed to and the report stage concluded.

On third reading, Mr Forth said that he could recommend the Bill as it now stood.

He had always made it clear that he had reservations about those parts of the Bill which had now been taken out because they were unworkable.

Mr Nigel Griffiths, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that it was sad that the minister had damaged the consumer effort by not accepting the Bill in its entirety. A Labour government would seek to introduce provisions embracing the whole Bill.

Mr Jones said that he had hoped that people who suffered from having bought shoddy goods would have better protection, with provision for replacement or refunds.

The Bill was read the third time without a division.

## Research on child cancer

MOVES to find out more about the "happening affliction" of neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer, were announced by Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health.

In an adjournment debate, he promised a search through the death certificates of children who had died from cancer to discover how many had suffered from the condition.

He said that the Medical Research Council was considering, in consultation with his department, funding a large-scale screening trial using a technique based on testing of babies' urine.

The number of children diagnosed with neuroblastoma in Great Britain had recently averaged about 73, approximately one in every 10,000 live births, and the number who died, about 44 a year.

Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab) had said that statistics were children who died from this most dangerous of cancers was unknown to the Government.

There should be prompt action to prevent avoidable deaths and public funding of a screening programme.



Lebbit come out fighting for mantle of the right

# Credibility problem dogs Stevens inquiry



Mr Stevens: Failed to charge any police officers

By Edward Gorman  
Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE investigation into allegations of collusion between "loyalist" terrorists and the security forces in Northern Ireland has been dogged by a credibility problem that still lingers at the inquiry's conclusion.

It surprised no-one that, even before Mr John Stevens began the inquiry, his efforts were already being written off — not only by Sinn Féin — as part of a cover-up or government-sponsored "whitewash" to appease critics in Dublin.

Mr Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, repeatedly made clear, as did Mr Hugh Annesley, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, that his inquiry would not only be rigorous but would follow leads wherever they were found and press them to their conclusion, whatever the consequences.

Six months later, the most conspicuous feature of the investigation is that Mr Stevens has failed to press charges against a single police officer in spite of recent court cases and other public disclosures that have made it clear that leaked photomontages of republican terrorist suspects originated from police stations.

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that Mr Stevens either took a formal decision or just drifted away from an investigation of the RUC, mindful perhaps of the explosive consequences. Taken as a whole, the inquiry cannot be ruled out.

Sources close to the team strenuously deny that there has been any attempt to avoid investigating RUC officers. They say policemen have been questioned but claim the police are more skilful at covering their tracks than, for example,

members of the Ulster Defence Regiment. Mr Stevens' detectives have no doubt, however, that RUC officers have been involved in unauthorized leaks.

One interpretation in some military circles is that Mr Stevens never stood a chance when it came to investigating the RUC. From the outset his team worked from police premises, inevitably relied on police advice and security, and worked in pairs with RUC officers.

The focus thus immediately shifted from the RUC to the UDR and "loyalist" terrorist groups such as the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Very early on Mr Stevens ordered the arrest of 28 UDR members in dawn raids in Belfast and Co Down in an operation which, it was said at the time, was unnecessary and insensitive and immediately led to suspicions in some military circles

that the police were encouraging Mr Stevens as part of a "vendetta" against the UDR. Senior government sources have said the UDR is serving, whether by accident or design, as a whipping boy for the security forces, conveniently deflecting criticism from the RUC.

The Stevens investigation has nevertheless accumulated an impressive record of individuals charged, even though a significant proportion of the offences do not involve collective activity and no-one has been charged with the key offence of handing material on, as opposed to being in receipt of it.

The 58 people charged or reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions include 24 for collecting, recording or possessing information likely to be of use to terrorists; 10 for firearms offences; three for intimidation, and one for offences associated with the unlawful possession of an

RUC uniform. The Stevens team has charged 10 UDR members (though it arrested more than 30), 26 members of the UDA and its paramilitary wing the Ulster Freedom Fighters (50 arrested), and six UVF members. This has been achieved in the face of concerted opposition from the UDA, which repeatedly attempted to embarrass Mr Stevens, and from within the UDR and sections of the RUC, which consistently undermined statements by the chief constable that Mr Stevens enjoyed the fullest co-operation of his force.

Mr Stevens also had to contend with a fire at his original headquarters at Carrickfergus outside Belfast on January 10 that badly damaged the control room, destroyed computer terminals and files. It is thought a number of files.

Leading article, page 11

## Detectives investigate oil rig sabotage

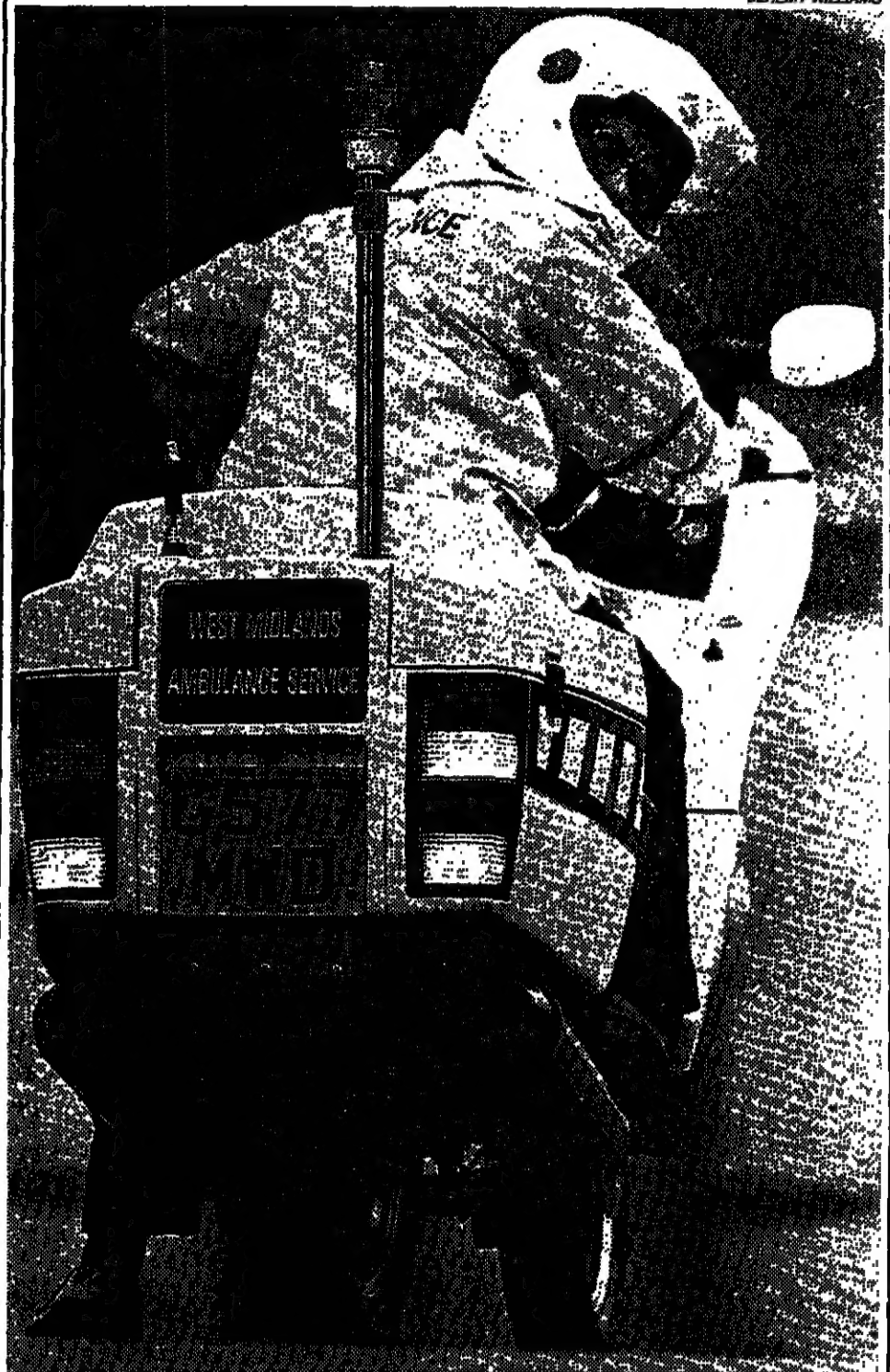
Detectives are investigating a sabotage attempt on Occidental's Claymore oil platform that could have led to extensive damage and a risk to lives (Kerry Gill writes).

A large bolt was found in one of the gas compressor units on the installation, which has a complement of 350 men. Occidental condemned the action as a "stupid and irresponsible act". Claymore is the sister installation of Piper Alpha, which blew up in a series of explosions in July 1988 with the loss of 167 lives.

It was during reconstruction work on the Claymore rig that the metal bolt was found on Wednesday night.

## Paramedics man motorcycles

JEREMY WILLIAMS



LEADING Ambulanceman Raymond Legg setting off on a test ride yesterday as Britain's first paramedic motorcycle ambulancemen prepare to take to the roads of the West Midlands. The pioneering scheme is designed to overcome traffic congestion and to get rapid medical help to victims of accidents and other emergencies (Craig Seton writes).

The West Midlands Ambulance Service has taken delivery of two 588cc Norton Commander motorcycles equipped with sirens and flashing blue lights and fitted with panniers to carry life-saving apparatus. Three qualified paramedic ambulancemen who are also experienced motorcyclists have volunteered for the six-month pilot project. They have completed a training course with West Midlands police.

The two rapid intervention motorcycles and their riders will be on stand-by five days a week between 7am and midnight. One is to be based in Solihull and the other in the Black Country. Mr Stephen Evans, the West Midlands Ambulance Service's public relations manager, said yesterday: "If the pilot scheme is successful, we hope to get more motorcycles." The motorcycles will carry a cardiac monitor, defibrillator, airway management equipment, fluids for setting up drips and basic first aid.

## Final steps

Police traced the last known steps of Mrs Stephanie Whitaker, aged 38, in an effort to find clues to her disappearance after she left her home for a prayer meeting in Newport, Gwent, more than a week ago.

## Brent eviction

Miss Diana Collymore, aged 43, a Labour councillor in Brent, north London, is to be evicted by her own town hall bailiffs for failing to pay £5,000 in rent arrears, after a judge rejected her appeal.

## Bulldozer dig

Archaeologists are using bulldozers in a last-minute attempt to uncover remaining artefacts from a Roman fort before the site at Exeter, Devon, becomes into a car park.

## Absent prisoner

Police are investigating the disappearance of Dennis Wilkinson, aged 27, a remand prisoner at Pentonville, north London, who was reported missing from an 11.45am roll-call yesterday.

## Diver verdict

Joseph Fox, aged 41, a sub-aqua diver of Keighley, West Yorkshire, died after swallowing sea water on a diving trip at Oban, a Bradford inquest was told yesterday.

## Soccer death

Kieron Ferris, aged 29, a Cardiff football supporter, died on a boat train after a drinking binge on a trip to watch Wales play in Dublin.

## Itchy business

Doctors are carrying out tests on postal sorting office workers at Ringswood, Hampshire, after dozens of them complained of itches and rashes.

## Rape arrest

A man has been arrested and is being questioned by police in connection with the rape of a girl aged seven at Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

## Woman missing

Police are searching for Mrs Sylvia Cory, aged 69, who is believed to have been in "a confused state" when she disappeared on Thursday evening while walking her dog at Basingstoke, Hampshire.

## School wins opt-out battle after defying council stand

By David Tytler, Education Editor

BEECHEN CLIFF, the Bath school that educated the athlete Sir Roger Bannister, was yesterday given clearance to opt out of local authority control.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced yesterday that the school could do so under its new head, Mr Roy Ludlow, when the summer term begins on April 23.

Mr MacGregor had been ordered by the High Court last month to reconsider both the proposal for the school to opt out and the county council reorganization scheme that would have turned Bechen Cliff into a sixth-form college.

The High Court blocked the original decision to allow the school to opt out of the control of Avon County Council.

Mr MacGregor's decision will come as a relief to the parents.

Mr Michael Cross, chairman of governors, said: "I am relieved that the uncertainty has been resolved. We shall now want to go on to make a superb grant-maintained school at Bechen Cliff which will be a beacon of excellence

in the South-west." Avon County Council said it would be seeking advice from the council solicitor to decide its next move.

The news may not be greeted with wholehearted enthusiasm by the staff.

Mr Michael Ours, the acting head who has been running the school for the past two years, said: "The staff have been in a very difficult position. They did not know who their boss would be and feared that they might be the victims of revenge if they spoke out."

Mr Ours took over the school when Mr Donald Stephens, the head, died in a climbing accident on a school trip to the French Alps in the summer of 1988.

He is proud of the school, which this year produced its best A level results and has had continuing success on the sports field: two boys have signed on with Somerset County Cricket Club.

Most of the 50 staff at the school will stay. Others may be looking for alternative posts or may decide to take early retirement. The only member of staff to say that she

will resign is Mrs Annie Marjoram, head of special needs at the school and president of Bath Labour Party.

Mr Cross said she spoke for a minority of the staff: "There is no exodus now and there will not be one."

Mrs Marjoram said: "I am the one who took the public stand to say that under no circumstances would I teach in an opt-out school. There are lots of people here who are trapped and are deeply uneasy, but do not feel they can take as strong a line initially."

Mr Dai Morris, who has been an English teacher at Bechen Cliff for 20 years, said: "The majority of the staff were unhappy about opting out, but accept that it is better than closure. They do not like it but they will accept it. The majority will stay to make it work."

Mr Ours is certain that the 840 boys at the school have not been affected. He said: "They have been very little affected and have accepted it as a game that adults play."

Mrs Josie Baskerville, president of the Parents' Association and who has four boys at

Bechen Cliff, voted against opting out in the ballot of the 66 per cent of parents who voted, 53.4 per cent voted in favour.

"We just wanted it resolved so that we can get on," Mrs Baskerville said.

College lecturers have failed to vote clearly on whether or not to accept an 8.5 per cent pay offer recommended by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and their union leaders are now to seek further negotiations.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education said yesterday that the ballot held by the Electoral Reform Society was "virtually 50-50".

A spokesman said the union had asked for a recount, but added: "We think the result will remain much the same, so the national executive are to return to Acas on Monday to reopen negotiations."

The 8.5 per cent pay offer was backdated from April last year, with a further 0.5 per cent from last September.

The year-long dispute at the colleges included a seven-month examination boycott.

## Minorities are 'nursed grudgingly'

By Jill Sherman

NURSES discriminate against patients from minority groups, it was claimed yesterday at the annual congress of the Royal College of Nursing in Brighton.

During a discussion on whether the college should formally recognize special interest groups, notably the lesbian nurses group, Miss Hazel Platzer, a member of the college's unofficial lesbian nurses group, said: "We know that lesbian patients and lots of other minority groups often receive really bad treatment."

Miss Wendy Harris from Bloomsbury said nursing staff had ignored the call light of a lesbian patient and paid no attention to her apart from giving prescribed medicines. "Nursing care was given very grudgingly to the patient."

However other delegates emphasized that special interest groups in the college should be related only to professional matters. "If we start groups for nurses' personal interests the list would be endless and could include groups such as single parents, political parties, hang gliders and communists," Miss Rosalind Pennington from Nottingham said.

Earlier, delegates gave overwhelming backing to a motion calling on the college to review its policies on sexual harassment and racial harassment. Speakers said that, although both were widespread in the health service, 72 per cent of health authorities had no policies at all on the issue.

## Unskilled young men most likely to drink and drive

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

THE TYPICAL drink-driving offender is male, aged 20 to 29, non-professional in occupation with a strong preference for beer, government research has found.

Drivers with blood-alcohol levels twice the legal limit are 10 times more likely to be involved in serious accidents than those below the limit, according to the research.

Only 5 per cent of drivers and motor cyclists breath-tested failed but, of those, nearly half had drunk twice the legal limit.

The survey, enabling British researchers for the first time to assess accident risks arising from drink-driving, found that the danger rose exponentially the more a driver had consumed. For example, the risk of a driver crashing who had exceeded the limit by 250 per cent was nearly 20 times greater than one who was below the limit.

The findings of the study, conducted by Nottinghamshire police and the government-funded Transport Road Research Laboratory, were explained yesterday at a conference on drink-driving at Essex University.

Its conclusion, however, that the average offender is likely to be in his 20s was partly challenged by Mr Philip Martin, an official at the Department of Transport. He said recent research had shown that younger motorists were increasingly heading

warnings about drink-driving. A study conducted in Wiltshire last autumn suggested that the typical offender might now be aged 30 to 39. As a rule, the offender would be male and be a semi-skilled or unskilled worker.

Of the 274 drivers aged under 20 who were tested, none produced a positive reading. Of the total of 3,400 motorists breath-tested, 1.5 per cent failed.

The conference was told of a renewed appeal from Mr Peter Joslin, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic committee, for the Government to give police wider powers to test drivers.

He could not understand why the Home Office, in the face of "overwhelming evidence" that the public would support random testing, had rejected the request.

Mrs Barbara Castle, who as a Labour minister in 1967 introduced the breath test, said she supported random testing.

Great strides had been made in reducing alcohol-related road deaths but further substantial progress was only likely to be made if more drink-drivers feared they would be caught.

According to new figures disclosed at the conference, 760 people were killed through drink-driving in 1988, 320 of whom were innocent victims such as drivers of other cars or pedestrians.

## Students poll pact alleged

By Sam Kiley  
Higher Education Reporter

THE leading Independent candidate for the presidency of the National Union of Students, Mr Cosmo Hawkes, said yesterday that the Labour Party had forged an electoral pact with students from the far left to head off his challenge.

Mr Hawkes said that at least five area organizers for the National Organization of Labour Students (Nols) had joined his camp in protest at the deal struck with Left Unity.

In return for guaranteed support for the Labour students' presidential candidate, Mr Stephen Twigg, Nols had agreed not to put up candidates opposing the Left Unity runners for two places representing further education colleges and national secretary, he said.

Delegates from 800 colleges in Britain will meet in Blackpool on Monday to decide the future of the National Union of Students. This year's election for the national executive and president is likely to be the closest for years.

A key issue will be the stand taken over the community charge by Mr Hawkes, who supports the union's policy of non-payment, and Mr Twigg, who is bound to support the policy, has stated that he will pay his own poll tax, in line with the Labour Party's stance.

Mr Twigg last night denied that there had been any agreement between Nols and Left Unity.

## Cannon-balls scupper Stevenson novel

By Kerry Gill

THE existence of two cannon-balls fired at the Hebridean island of Islay by a marauding American privateer has provided the basis for a new ending to Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *St Ives*.

Stevenson's unfinished novel will be published next week with the final chapters completely rewritten by Mrs Jenni Calder, one of his biographers, and aided by island folklore.

Stevenson died before completing the adventures of St Ives, a French prisoner during

the Napoleonic Wars who escaped from Edinburgh Castle. The book recounts St Ives' exploits as he makes his way back to France. The book was completed by the novelist Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, who published in 1897. However, according to Mrs Calder, Sir Arthur got the last six chapters wrong.

When Stevenson died in Samoa in 1894 the scene was set for St Ives' escape from Edinburgh Castle using a balloon. He left an intriguing, unwritten chapter, "The True Blooded Yankee", which was

ignored by Sir Arthur who refused to believe American privateers plied British waters during the war with America between 1812 and 1814.

Research shows that the True Blooded Yankee did exist and Stevenson must have heard of its raid on Bowmore, Islay, in 1813, when it looted two cannon-balls at the hapless villagers; the cannon-balls were used for shot-put contests until earlier this century. Mrs Calder is certain Stevenson planned to use the incident as the basis of St Ives' escape. In

Sir Arthur's version, St Ives made his way to the English Channel in the balloon, but was recaptured. He was then saved by an American ship and eventually returned to marry a girl he met in Edinburgh Castle.

Mrs Calder uses research by the historian Mr Robert Storey, who believes Stevenson learnt of the American raid from his grandfather. She is convinced St Ives was to have flown in the balloon to Islay where he was rescued by the True Blooded Yankee.

## Barristers advertise counsel at up to £1,000 a day

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A SET of barristers has broken new ground by publishing the daily charging rates of its members in the chambers' brochure.

The chambers, at Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, is one of a number to have produced brochures under the Bar's new freedom to advertise. But it is thought to be the only one to publish a full list of what counsel charge.

Advertising restrictions and other rules about how barristers practise and where they set up have been swept away under a new Bar code of conduct, which comes into force today.

The guideline charging rates for a full day's paperwork (six chargeable hours) or for a day's refresher in a straight-forward case range from £750 to £1,000 for Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC, with 16 years in practice, to £150 to £250 for

the newest qualified member of chambers.

One member, Miss Linden Ite (five years in practice, £350-£500 daily charging rate), said: "We felt this was information that solicitors and the lay client were entitled to have."

"It certainly makes their lives easier, rather than ringing up the clerk on an ad hoc basis every time."

Clients had been pleasantly surprised, she said. "There is a mistaken belief that barristers charge huge fees. But they find the fees compare favourably with solicitors because, of course, we do not have the overheads that they do."

Mr Jeremy Woodruff, first junior clerk in the chambers, confirmed the response from solicitors was good.

"It gives them some idea when they are speaking to

### Guideline charging rates (as at April 1989, under review)

	Years in practice	£
Nicholas Stewart QC	16	750-1,000
Benjamin Levy	28	500-750
Anthony Mann	13	500-750
David Ite	27	400-750
Timothy Jennings	25	500-650
Victor Joffe	11	500-600
John Brooks	36	400-600
David Halpern	9	400-600
Caroline Hutton	8	350-600
Linden Ite	5	350-500
Leslie Michaelson	2	300-450
Peter Arden	3	300-400
Geoffrey Zelin	3	300-400
Jacqueline Baker	2	200-400
James Barker	July '88	175-275
Anthony de Garr Robinson	Sept '88	150-250

The guideline rates represent the normal ranges of charge for a full day's paperwork (six chargeable hours) or a day's refresher in a case with no special factors such as unusual urgency or complexity. Rates are subject to negotiation in the usual way.

clients what they are going to be looking at." Quite often solicitors were asked by clients what counsel's fees would be and it did not look good if they

had to say they did not know, he said. Although the bulk of the Bar's new liberal code of conduct comes in today, advertising restrictions were

lifted last summer. Since then, chambers brochures have burgeoned. Some are more imaginative than others. A recent brochure competition found many do not give vital information.

Barristers' dates of birth, for instance, which solicitors find useful, are usually excluded, but his or her fun of Court is often mentioned, although the judges of the competition said that was of no interest whatever to solicitors or lay clients.

Mr David Latham, QC, chairman of the Bar working party on the new code, said that some members had appreciated the change and were going out to "market" themselves quite aggressively with strong brochures.

But others, he said, had not yet appreciated what was happening, or had no wish to "promote" themselves. "The large soggy mass is still slightly uneasy."

The new code also allows

barristers freedom to set up in practice on their own, wherever they wish, provided they meet certain requirements on administrative arrangements and insurance.

A number were already doing this, and even working from home, Mr Latham said. The next move will be a new Bar Guide, in which solicitors or members of the public can look up barristers and read about their work and possibly what cases they have undertaken.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, said: "A 'beauty contest' was shortly to be held for publishers to pitch for this work."

"Although the traditional view of the Bar had been against publicizing cases, people were now prepared to think again about it as long as the client agreed."

"The wind of change is blowing," Mr Henderson said.

## New debt collection system frees courts

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

CREDITORS will be encouraged to make direct contact with their debtors under radical changes, effective from tomorrow, in the way county courts handle debt collection.

Under the present system, which has been in effect since the establishment of the county courts 140 years ago, debtors make payments into court, known as "suits" or "cash", which are then accounted for and paid to creditors on a weekly basis.

That will be abolished and instead most payments in county court disputes will be made direct to creditors.

The streamlined procedures will relieve the county courts of much administrative work and release some 300 staff for other duties.

Under the new system it is estimated that courts will

handle less than one third of the payments dealt with at present. They will deal only with those payments considered to be most straightforward, such as payment under warrants or attachment of earnings orders.

Creditors will be encouraged to have direct contact with debtors after judgment; will receive payment quickly; will be better informed about the state of case and may receive more payments as a result of fewer restrictions on methods of payment.

Debtors will receive clear advice, with forms written in plain English; and have wider choice of how and where they pay.

The procedures bring England and Wales into line with Scotland.



## OVERSEAS NEWS

# Bush sends letter to Gorbachov on crisis in Vilnius

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

A PERSONAL letter from President Bush to President Gorbachov was handed to the Kremlin yesterday as Western statesmen urged caution and conciliation in Lithuania.

Neither side would reveal what Mr Bush said in the message, handed to Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, by the US Charge d'Affaires.

But, coming a week before Mr Shevardnadze's visit to Washington for preparatory talks on the June summit, it almost certainly dealt with the Lithuanian crisis.

Mr Bush has refrained from strong public comment on the Soviet actions in Lithuania, but diplomats here suggest he may be taking a tougher line in private to warn President Gorbachov of the severe repercussions on US-Soviet relations of full-scale Soviet intervention in Lithuania.

The situation in Lithuania was discussed yesterday by Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany in talks in London. "We agreed it is absolutely vital that it be resolved by dialogue and discussion", Mrs Thatcher said.

Lithuania was also on the agenda of talks which Mr Shevardnadze had yesterday with Mr Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, making a one-day visit to Moscow. Mr Dumas said before leaving Paris that he would urge Moscow to open negotiations with Vilnius, while emphasizing that the republic's right to sovereignty was indisputable.

Despite Soviet reports of continuing tension and comments clearly intended to keep up the pressure on President Vytautas Landsbergis, there

was a noticeable easing of the atmosphere in Moscow yesterday.

However, the KGB defiantly announced here that it would continue its work in Lithuania despite a reported threat by the republic's parliament to punish those co-operating with the agency. The KGB gave a warning that it would punish anyone who tried to stop it fulfilling its functions in Lithuania.

And the Deputy Chief of the Soviet General Staff told Tass that preparations for the spring military call-up were being thwarted in Lithuania. He said it was impossible to set up conscription commissions in some districts. Tass reported "an atmosphere of hysteria and intimidation" in the republic, and said groups of 100 to 500 volunteers, including army deserters, were being set up in units on the pretext of organizing resistance to Soviet troops.

Moscow was also confronted with growing unrest in other republics. *Pravda* yesterday denounced the increasing activity of nationalist forces in the Ukraine, where the Rukh popular front scored an impressive win in recent local and republican elections.

The paper said Rukh aimed to lead the Ukraine out of the Soviet Union with a programme for total independence. It said Rukh "increasingly shows not goodwill and accord but its intolerance and the organizational disarray of sound forces" — a reference presumably to the poor morale and collapsing authority of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

Meanwhile, violence has flared up again in Armenia

and Azerbaijan. In the past few days there has been a series of armed clashes along the border between the two republics and one person has been killed.

Interior Ministry troops have been strengthened in the region, and Soviet soldiers have arrested militants with grenades, rifles and shotguns. Azerbaijani deputies have sent a letter to Mr Gorbachov asking him to step up security and declare a state of emergency in border areas.

A similar appeal to Mr Gorbachov was sent by pro-Moscow deputies in Moldova, who complained yesterday that 28 Russian-speaking deputies were being up on Wednesday. They accused the Moldavian Popular Front of planning to disrupt the Moldavian parliament.

In Latvia, the Communist Party held a conference to discuss its congress scheduled for April 14, at which the independent party will debate changing its name and dropping the word "communist".

And in Estonia, the parliament, meeting on the second day of its session, came close to declaring a return to pre-war independence. A majority of deputies supported resolutions and motions condemning the Soviet occupation of Estonia and calling for a transition period on the road to independence.

According to a Tass report, the deputies formed six political groupings: the Popular Front being the largest with 43 of the 105 seats, and the others including republicans, intellectuals, proponents of equal rights, agrarians and a group calling for the restoration of the old pre-war republic.

## Lawyers split as Moscow sacks top legal official

From Anatol Leiven, Vilnius

THE Lithuanian state procurator, Mr Arturas Palauskas, was dismissed yesterday by Moscow and replaced with an officer from the legal division of the armed forces.

But, backed by the Lithuanian Government, most of the procurator staff have announced that they will continue to obey the chief appointed by the Lithuanian Parliament, and a split in the department is imminent.

"There is one Procurator in Lithuania, and Mr Palauskas is his chief," Lithuanian deputy president Kazimieras Motieka said. "If Moscow wants to create a separate one, let them." Sitting in his office, Mr Palauskas said: "I am the procurator of Lithuania, and I will stay here unless soldiers come to remove me."

Mr Palauskas told me that the Soviet First Deputy General Procurator, Mr Aleksei Vassiliev, told him he had been dismissed for "violating the constitution of the Soviet Union and breaking links with my superiors in Moscow."

Tass and other Soviet agencies have been reporting "increased crime" in Lithuania, including attacks on Soviet soldiers, and failure of the Lithuanian procurator to stop them. Moscow's appointee is

Colonel Antanas Petraskas, until yesterday Chief Military Procurator in the Riga garrison. He is by origin a Lithuanian.

Mr Palauskas was appointed only last week by the Lithuanian Parliament to replace Mr Vidutis Barauskas, who in turn was appointed last year by Moscow to replace the previous Procurator, Mr Ludvikas Sabutis, a leading Sajudis member and now secretary to the President.

The Procurator has much greater powers than the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in England. Rooted in the Roman Law of the old Russian empire, these powers are analogous to those of "examining magistrate" in France and include preparing all cases for trial and supervising the work of the police.

The scenes in the Procurator's building in Vilnius's Gogol Street yesterday were full of drama and irony — with sober legal officials in a state of high emotion. At a meeting of staff soon after Mr Palauskas was dismissed, officials burst into applause as a Sajudis deputy, Mr Egidijus Bickauskas, himself a lawyer, called upon them to continue to obey the orders of Mr Palauskas as the legally appointed Procurator. Only

one row, composed of Soviet loyalists and officials sent from Moscow, sat silent, stoney-faced. When Mr Bickauskas declared that "since I can't ask Mr Vassiliev to leave, I will leave myself," all but 14 of about 110 officials present followed him from the room.

Answering a barrage of hostile questions, Mr Vassiliev carried off his role of legal bureaucrat turned pro-consul with some humour, but Colonel Petraskas, with a slight grimace on his face, sweated under the television lights as officials demanded if he recognised Lithuanian law, and if he did not feel ashamed to have come to his country as the representative of a foreign power.

Mr Vassiliev told the meeting that "the time will come when all these matters will be discussed, and laws and the constitution may be changed; but for the moment the constitution of the USSR is in force and this says that republican procurators are appointed by the General Procurator of the USSR. If you are lawyers, you must understand that the General Procurator had no choice but to make this decision."

Another move expected imminently by Lithuanian Communist Party leaders is a military occupation of the Communist-owned printing house in Vilnius which, like other Communist Party property, is in dispute between the Independent Party and the Soviet Party in Lithuania.



West Germany's Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, near Parliament after his London press conference

## Rise in desertion alarms Kremlin

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

CRIME in the Soviet Army grew by 14.5 per cent in 1989 compared with the previous year and there have been an increasing number of desertions, the chief military prosecutor has said.

Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Katasev told a press conference that the situation showed no signs of improving in the first few months of this year. Desertions were especially notable among privates and sergeants from the Baltic and Transcaucasian republics. At present more than 1,000 servicemen from those regions were absent without leave.

He said those that were caught would be returned to their garrisons to face trial and he called for more vigorous efforts to prosecute those encouraging young men to desert.

The press conference, on Thursday, was clearly timed to coincide with the Soviet Army action against Lithuanian deserters.

*Komsomolskaya Pravda*, a newspaper aimed particularly at young people of conscription age, yesterday published a lengthy and critical account of the movement to encourage Lithuanian deserters.

A soldier is considered to have deserted if he is absent without leave for more than a week. He is normally punished by three years' obligatory service in punishment battalions, where discipline is especially harsh.

But local commanders sometimes simply confine those recaptured to military prisons for a shorter time. Conscientious objection, however, is not recognized in the Soviet Union and is usually punished by a prison sentence.

## Berlin apology clears way for coalition pact

From Anne McElvey, East Berlin

EAST Germany's leading parties look set to form a coalition of compromises next week after the first stage of talks ended yesterday in broad agreement but no new government.

Herr Hans Wilhelm Ebeling, the leader of the German Social Union, the most right-wing of the three parties in the conservative Alliance for Germany, apologized publicly for the aggressive campaign conducted by his party against the Social Democrats.

"Many things were said and done in the heat of the election which I did not approve of," he said. He added that the Union was now "stretching out a hand" to the Social Democrats to join them in government.

The party campaigned vigorously against the SPD calling it "the legacy of the SED (communist) party".

Herr Markus Meckel, the deputy leader of the SPD and a former vicar, was apparently stunned by the apology and could only say that it was "always good when people changed for the better".

Meanwhile, Herr Ibrahim Böhm, the Social Democrats' leader who gave up his office

last week after allegations that he had worked as a Stasi informer, said yesterday that he would resume the party leadership on Monday.

Yesterday he was allowed to examine Stasi files kept on him in the company of representatives responsible for the dissolution of the organization. They said afterwards that there was no evidence that he had worked for the Ministry of State Security while being an active dissident.

The Social Democrats have always insisted that they would not enter a coalition involving with the German Social Union, and the strident Herr Ebeling, supported by his sister party, the Bavarian Christian Socialists, has been their personal bugbear. But the apology now opens the way for a compromise between the adversaries.

The SPD will continue talks with the ruling Christian Democrats tomorrow before deciding whether they could enter negotiations on the division of ministerial posts that would include the German Social Union.

Under popular pressure, all five parties involved are now back-pedalling furiously on

the promises and anathemas of an overheated election campaign to make a workable government possible.

A sign outside the SPD headquarters says apologetically: "Democracy takes longer than dictatorship".

The Christian Democrats' spokesman, Herr Helmut Luck, said yesterday that his party was prepared to accept the country's existing constitution as valid, a key condition for the participation of the Social Democrats in government.

Without the recognition of the validity of the 1968 Constitution Parliament would be unable to enact sweeping changes on an absolute majority, effectively disenfranchising the Social Democrats from all important decisions.

While the SPD leadership is anxious to gain as much as possible in the shaping of the country's future, ordinary party members are far from happy with the new tone of compromise. A spokesman said yesterday that headquarters had been deluged by letters and telephone calls from enraged members opposed to a coalition.

## Third mass grave uncovered

Sachsenhausen

East Germany

EAST German soldiers unearthed a mass grave yesterday said to contain Germans interned by Stalin's security police at a former Nazi concentration camp after the Second World War.

The discovery, in woods 18 miles north of Berlin, was the third in a week as East Germany's new authorities relentlessly come to grips with horrors long hushed up by the Communists.

Reporters watched as troops

dug up more than 10 skeletons which officials identified as Germans held at the nearby Sachsenhausen camp after it was seized by Soviet security forces at the end of the war.

Rusted identification plates were found around the ankle bones of skeletons. Sachsenhausen camp survivors have said plates were attached to the deceased before burial.

Empty bullet cartridges were found among the skeletons but their origin was unclear, said Mr Wolfgang Titz, the official in charge of

the monument to victims of Sachsenhausen during the Nazi era. Some cartridges carried markings dating from the war and others appeared to have been made in the mid-1960s.

A local resident said this week she witnessed Soviet troops at Sachsenhausen mow down German prisoners with machine-guns.

Western diplomats say 65,000 Germans rounded up by Soviet security forces perished in camps in the Soviet-occupied zone.

## German right moves East

From Ian Murray, Bonn

WEST Germany's radical right-wing Republican Party announced from its headquarters in Bonn yesterday that it had formed a new branch at Götting in East Germany, symbolically sited on the Neisse river, part of the border with Poland.

The Republican initiative points to a new phase in the struggle by ethnic Germans from the areas now under Polish control to win compensation if a unified Germany irrevocably accepts the Oder-Neisse line as the legal border.

According to the Republicans, the branch has 200 members and is being formed with the Federation of Expellees, which represents ethnic Germans from the territories east of the Oder-Neisse rivers.

Although the Republicans are considered fascist, and therefore illegal in East Germany, they seek to avoid being banned through their link with the expellees.

The declared purpose of the branch is to act as a rallying point for Silesia, most of which is now within the borders which Poland insists must be guaranteed before German unity is allowed. It is said to be the first of a series of regional branches to be set up there protecting the interests of all Silesians.

The expellees say they will use every legal means to prevent "the uncompensated surrender of the homes of millions of East Germans and a third of Germany".

Last Monday a court in Suttgart awarded a woman, aged 59, from Silesia DM 102 million (£37 million) for the loss of Daimler shares after she was expelled from Silesia. Thousands of other expellees are preparing similar law suits, which could cost the Federal Government billions.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, who agreed only reluctantly to prepare a treaty guaranteeing the present border, said last weekend that when unity came his countrymen would have to face "a bitter hour" in renouncing the territories east of the Oder-Neisse. He said he understood people's bitterness because it would mean giving up at least a quarter of what had been German territory.

## Ceausescu 'persecuted brother'

Bucharest

NICOLAE Ceausescu's younger brother, Lieutenant-General Nicolae Andruța Ceausescu, claimed yesterday that he had had to endure years of persecution after he discovered Elena, the executed former dictator's future wife, naked with a German soldier during the Second World War.

"It's one thing to be persecuted as a stranger, and something else again to be persecuted by your own brother and sister-in-law," he told the newspaper *Adevărul* in the prison where he awaits trial for alleged crimes during last December's revolution.

General Ceausescu, former head of the Securitate secret police training school, said he occasionally visited the then Elena Patrescu while his brother was in prison under the Nazis. "One day," he said, "I found her and her sister-in-law, Adela, naked with two Germans. She didn't like that too much... But it didn't seem to bother her until she married my brother. Then I noticed a coldness." (Reuters)

## Lithuanian MP flies home disappointed

By Michael Knappe, Diplomatic Correspondent

A LITHUANIAN envoy left London yesterday critical of what she called Britain's continuing prevarication over recognizing the republic's declaration of independence.

"We believe it would be a great help for us and at the same time for Mr Gorbachov if the British Government were to declare its attitude more firmly," said Mrs Laima Kadrickienė, a Lithuanian MP.

She flew to Britain on Thursday to deliver to Mrs Thatcher a letter from Mr Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president. The let-

ter stopped short of asking for an open declaration of recognition of Lithuanian independence, calling instead on the people of Britain "to continue to reaffirm and support the right of the people of Lithuania to freedom, dignity and self-determination."

Although Mrs Thatcher urged President Gorbachov to exercise restraint over Lithuania, the Government has not formally recognized the self-proclaimed state, even though it has maintained the accreditation of a Lithuanian charge d'affaires since 1938.

## Major faces baptism of EC fire

From Peter Gullford, Brussels

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers, with the governors of the EC's 12 central banks, retreat to a secluded castle in the West of Ireland today for what could be a most unrelaxing first attempt to lay out the contents of the EC's planned economic and monetary union.

It will be the first such "fireside chat" attended by Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and could prove to be his baptism of fire. If, as expected, he reaffirms the Government's distaste for all current models of EMU except the Government's own — a call to make all currencies legal tender in the EC and let them compete for supremacy, a move which has been widely rejected — he will find few allies at the meeting in Ashford Castle, County Mayo.

Few if any formal decisions will be taken, but some ministers may use the meeting to form a chorus in favour of laying the foundations for EMU, and even of drafting much of it, before the inter-governmental conference on EMU begins in December. They could then proceed immediately afterwards to

wards full political union. This would severely test the strength of UK opposition.

Mr Major may also be told, at least by the European Commission and probably by several ministers as well, that Britain must join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System possibly by the middle of next year. Failure to do so will jeopardize the first stage of EMU, involving closer currency alignment and greater co-operation between the central banks. There is even speculation in Brussels that the Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Robin Leigh-Pemberton, has deliberately distanced himself from the Government in advance of today's talks.

The chief task at Ashford Castle will be to reach consensus after sifting through a baffling array of reports and opinions which diverge on the details of EMU but which agree on most of the key principles, notably the need for a single European currency, the ECU.

Central to the talks will be the European Commission's widely leaked paper calling for



Herr Pohl: Fears an increase in inflation

a single currency. The document lists the benefits of the ECU, which Commissioners believe could be introduced as of 1996, saying it would save the Community's money-changing population between £11 billion and £15 billion a year. However, the Commission paper proposes only vague measures to curb government spending.

The central bank governors will go to County Mayo armed with a separate interim report produced by their aides, together with officials from the

national treasuries, which calls for stronger treaty provisions binding governments to strict spending limits. Serious disagreement could arise over how far to tighten the belt on public spending.

Strong support for tight budget discipline will come today from Herr Karl-Otto Pohl, head of the West German Bundesbank, which fears profligate spending by EC governments in a future currency union could fuel inflation and weaken the might of the Deutschmark. Britain is distinctly averse to any transfer of monetary sovereignty to Europe.

Irish government sources claim there is "broad agreement to proceed on the basis of the Commission report". British diplomats dismiss both documents, saying they amount to lofty statements on the final goal of EMU without concentrating on detail.

Herr Theo Waigel, the West German Finance Minister, will also brief his colleagues on his Government's increasingly complicated plans for a single German currency and its impact on the EC, an issue which British officials see as infinitely more crucial even than full political union.

## Hungary offered a bridging loan

From Peter Gullford, Brussels

THE European Commission yesterday agreed to hand over the first slice of the Community's £635 million bridging loan designed to help Hungary cut its huge foreign debt and follow through plans for rigorous market reform without prompting the collapse of its economy.

Brussels is clearly using the loan to display its faith that Hungary's economic and political authorities, whom it views as the pioneers of reform in Eastern Europe, will stand by their promises to change the country along Western lines.

"This loan is a mark of our confidence in the will of Hungary's political and economic leaders to achieve political reform and economic recovery," the Commission said in a statement yesterday.

Coming so soon after the Hungarian elections, the loan is an implicit recognition that political reforms — a key condition for long-term aid for the country — are now on a secure footing. But the Commission has a distinct lack of

faith in some of Hungary's neighbours, notably Romania, and intends to use the offer of EC support as a carrot to keep the whole of Eastern Europe on the reforming path in its role as broker of world aid to the region.

The EC's five-year loan, scheme, which had to await the agreement of a broader economic readjustment programme between Hungary and the International Monetary Fund before being signed, has the express approval of EC heads of government who gave it their initial blessing at the Strasbourg summit last December.

The loan is a response to the crippling decline of Hungary's balance of payments last year, which caused a severe slowdown in its economic recovery programme.

The Hungarian Government formally asked the EC last November for the loan as a vital measure to cushion its reform programme, and the first £255 million will be made available to Hungary in the next few days.

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# Kremlin wants to keep more tanks in Eastern Europe

By Michael Evans in London and Ian Murray in Bonn

MOSCOW has told Nato's conventional arms control negotiators in Vienna that it wants to increase the number of tanks it keeps in Eastern Europe and the western part of the Soviet Union from 12,000 to at least 14,000, according to diplomatic sources.

The latest stumbling block at the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks has arisen because of Soviet concern over the uncertain position of East Germany's 3,140 tanks — a mixture of Soviet T-54s, T-55s, T-72s, and stored T-34s.

Soviet negotiators in Vienna are now saying that if East Germany is absorbed into Nato, they will need compensation. What they want is to change the so-called "sufficiency rule" under which no single nation is permitted to have more than 12,000 tanks out of the overall total of 20,000 per alliance in the region from the Atlantic to the Urals.

According to the diplomatic sources, the Russians are saying they must be allowed to have 14,000-15,000 tanks. Apart from losing East Germany as a member of the Warsaw Pact, Moscow is also worried about Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The Soviet argument is that neither of these "allies" can be relied on to keep up their tank strengths, as laid down under a CFE treaty, because of their wish to reduce their forces.

They fear this could mean that if the Soviet Union is restricted to 12,000 tanks, the Warsaw Pact total may not even reach the agreed 20,000 ceiling.

Yesterday it also emerged that the Soviet Union's proposal to include all Nato and Warsaw Pact forces in the CFE talks — not just superpower troops — and to have an

overall ceiling of 700,000-750,000 on each side, is to become a central part of the negotiations on German reunification at the two-plus-four talks. During his visit to Washington next week, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is to ask Mr. James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to use his influence within the Nato alliance to gain approval for this idea, according to diplomatic sources in Bonn.

Mr. Shevardnadze has sought support for the idea from Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister. During their meeting last week in Namibia, he emphasized that it would be crucial to the question of German reunification and hinted that if a satisfactory and fast disarmament deal could be agreed, then it would help Mr. Gorbachov to take a more relaxed line with Lithuania and any other Soviet states seeking greater autonomy.

An essential element of the deal the Soviet Union is seeking is an initial limit of around 300,000 men in the size of the armed forces of a united Germany along with agreement that no Western or German troops — either under Nato or national command — should be deployed between the Elbe and the Oder-Neisse in what is now East German territory.

Soviet public opinion would be unwilling to accept the idea of a new, strong, united Germany, given the fact that the Second World War cost 20 million Russian lives.

According to the sources in Bonn, the West has been given a warning that the Soviet Union will use its seat at the reunification negotiating table to stall German unity unless it

is satisfied that there is no chance that history will repeat itself.

Away from the forum where the two Germans now discuss unity with the four Second World War victorious allies, separate negotiations are underway between Moscow and Bonn. During his meeting with Herr Genscher, Mr. Shevardnadze explained the considerable difficulties Moscow is now facing and sought help in speeding up the disarmament process in a way which would make possible an honourable and orderly Soviet withdrawal from eastern Europe.

As part of this withdrawal, the Kremlin is even asking for West Germany to pay for the construction of barracks in the Soviet Union to house the troops which would be pulled out of East Germany.

West Germany has said already that it will meet East Germany's present obligations to accommodate Soviet troops and Mr. Shevardnadze is suggesting that if this money is now spent on building barracks, the Soviet Army would be able to go home within two or three years — subject to a comprehensive disarmament agreement in Vienna.

The establishment of a demilitarized buffer zone, agreement on substantial reductions in Nato forces — particularly of the German Army — and a sound treaty on the western Polish frontier would be achievements the Russians could claim proved that they had finally succeeded in resolving the outstanding problems of the Second World War.

Instead of a peace treaty, the idea would be to accept that the 1945 Potsdam agreement had at last been fulfilled.

## Party on brink of collapse

From Dassa Trevisan  
Belgrade

THE Yugoslav Communist Party was pushed to the brink of final collapse yesterday when the Central Committee failed to secure a simple quorum, with half of its members boycotting the meeting.

More than a dozen Central Committee members walked out during the session complaining that anyone voicing dissenting opinions was being challenged immediately.

The Central Committee meeting was convened on the insistence of the Serbian party's hardline leadership, despite warnings from other constituent republican parties that a session in the absence of the Slovene representatives would be illegal and could lead to the party's disintegration.

The Slovene and the Croatian parties boycotted the session, while 12 Central Committee members from Bosnia and several from Macedonia walked out saying that there was no point in holding a meeting which failed to secure a quorum as only 85 out of a total of 165 members attended.

In January, Slovene delegates walked out of the party congress in protest over the majority's opposition to radical democratic reforms proposed by the Slovene party.

The congress was suspended but, on the insistence of Serbia to resume the congress, the current Central Committee meeting was convened.

A spokesman for the Slovene party, contacted by telephone, said: "The Central Committee meeting is illegal and the best thing they could do is to dissolve themselves."

## Call for protest alarms Peking

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

PEKING residents are being urged by pro-democracy activists to demonstrate silently in Tiananmen Square tomorrow, but the authorities — determined to nip unrest in the bud — have ordered everyone to stay away, according to Chinese sources.

It is not clear whether the call to demonstrate has come from activists within China, or from dissident groups operating in exile.

Some Chinese have received letters or faxes calling for Peking residents to gather and walk silently around the square tomorrow in protest against the killings on June 4 last year. Many people in Peking have learned of the planned protest, but most say they are afraid to take part.

The Government, however, is clearly extremely nervous about the calls to gather in the square, and has issued a document which is being read at staff meetings in all work units in the capital. The document warns people that if they go to the square and "something happens", then they will be "responsible for the consequences".

This wording is similar to that used in warnings issued before June 4, when even casual bystanders were mown down, and seems to have convinced most people that it would be safer to stay away.

Tiananmen Square has been open to the public since martial law was lifted in January. Still scarred by damage done with tanks, the square is usually busy on Sunday afternoons with families out for a stroll and old men flying kites.

Police in central Peking have been ordered to be on duty from April 1 onwards

with all leave and even days off cancelled.

An unknown number of soldiers are garrisoned in the extensive compound housing the Museum of Revolutionary History, which is adjacent to Tiananmen Square. They drill in the open every day, and their washing hangs out to dry opposite the Great Hall of the People.

Some Chinese say the order to stay away from Tiananmen Square refers only to the period from April 1 to 5. Others say it refers to the whole, highly sensitive period from the beginning of April to the end of June.

China's festival of remembrance of the dead falls on April 5. In 1976, thousands of people gathered in Tiananmen Square on that day overtly to mourn the death of the Prime Minister, Zhou Enlai, and covertly to protest against the Gang of Four. That demonstration was broken up violently.

The anniversary of the death of Hu Yaobang, the ousted General Secretary of the Communist Party, comes 10 days later, on April 15. His death provoked the anti-government protests led by students in Peking last spring.

But by far the most sensitive anniversary is June 4, the day when the Army shot its way into Peking, killing hundreds and perhaps thousands of peaceful demonstrators.

The authorities are worried on two counts: first that the Communist Party could not survive another onslaught, and that the Army might not be willing to save them a second time; second, that any hint of unrest could mar the Asian Games to be held in Peking in September.

## Gorbachov honoured for bringing glasnost to dress

New York. PRESIDENT Gorbachov yesterday received a special commendation from the influential International Best-Dressed Poll for liberating Soviet man's fashion sense. He was named for "opening the door to fashion as a means of self-esteem and self-expression to the men of the Eastern bloc nations after 40 years of enforced anonymity", according to a statement from Eleanor Lambert, the fashion publicist who devised the poll 50 years ago.

Another citation, to Empress Michiko of Japan, named her an "international treasure of world fashion, whose exquisite style sense... has been a notable influence since she became crown princess of Japan".

Mr David Dinkins, New York's new Mayor, was com-

mended for "restoring the well-dressed male image to New York politics". The Princess of Wales and King Juan Carlos of Spain were among those named to the poll's permanent Hall of Fame.

Daniel Day-Lewis, the British actor who early this week won the best-actor Oscar, and Paul Newman, the film star, were among a dozen men named to the year's best-dressed list.

Ivana Trump, estranged from her husband, Donald, the American property magnate, and her sister-in-law, Blaine, were both among the dozen best-dressed women.



Mr Gorbachov: A man of mode for the East bloc

## Masking a rare talent with owl-like glee



Pablo Picasso posing with an owl mask in this previously unpublished photograph taken by David Douglas Duncan, the photographer, in 1957. Mr Duncan plans to auction four such works, together valued at \$667,000, to raise funds for Aids-afflicted children in Romania.

## De Klerk prepared to crush Natal violence

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa said yesterday that he is prepared to order the use of force to crush the nationwide violence that has claimed more than 200 lives in the past month.

He told the Cape Town Press Club that he intends to address Parliament about the violence on Monday, the same day that Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Zulu leader, and Mr Nelson Mandela, who is to hold talks over the political war in Natal province that has claimed at least 40 lives in the past week.

Mr de Klerk said the Government would be obliged to use the full weight of its power to restore law and order if elements of both the left and right continued their present course of violence and lawlessness.

It was significant that Mr de Klerk made particular mention of right-wing activity — other South African white leaders have, until now, been reluctant to include right-wing extremists in their denunciations of violence.

He was clearly referring to the situation in Welkom, the Orange Free State gold mining town hit by a tornado two weeks ago, where supporters of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) have clashed with blacks.

He made it clear also that the Government believed that black protest politics and mass demonstrations — which he allowed for the first time last December — were getting out of hand.

He said: "Demonstrators

openly espousing violence or preaching class and racial hatred are playing with fire. Fanning these flames may easily lead to catastrophic inter-group conflagration... If protests and demonstrations become a way of life they interrupt progress based on orderly and disciplined hard work and result ultimately in unemployment."

Mr de Klerk added: "We say to those who spend so much energy and productive time on protest: You have made your point that you are unhappy about the situation. We accept that. We are not satisfied with it either. Join us in doing something constructive about it. The time for building a new South Africa is now."

Meanwhile, in Boksburg, a town east of Johannesburg that gained international notoriety 18 months ago when its white extremist Conservative Party-dominated council decided to restore petty apartheid, its only Jewish councillor was confronted with a pig's head wrapped in a Star of David flag when he pulled out his chair to sit down at a council meeting on Thursday night.

The incident came after the Supreme Court in Pretoria ruled that the council's decisions to segregate recreational facilities in the town were invalid although the Separate Amenities Act, one of the basic apartheid laws, remains on the statute book.

Mr Issy Kramer said: "I felt very sick. It shows that there is a small group of people in this country which is unable to

face reality and the inevitability of political change." Mr Kramer said a Boksburg Conservative Party councillor had admitted distributing an anti-semitic pamphlet. It recalled a 1937 speech to Parliament by Mr Eric Louw, who became South Africa's first National Party Foreign Minister when it won power in 1948, saying that South Africa had a large Jewish population.

Mr Louw said then: "We owe it to the future generations of South Africa to tackle this problem now before it is too late."

JOHANNESBURG: The Publications Appeals Board yesterday removed its ban on the autobiography of Mr Nelson Mandela and the anti-apartheid film, *A Dry White Season*.

It said Mr Mandela's book, *The Struggle Is My Life*, was now "part of the accepted political rhetoric" in South Africa. The board had banned the book three years ago.

Mr Mandela was released on February 11 after 27 years in prison for his role in launching the bombing and sabotage campaign of the African National Congress. He continues to support the ANC's armed struggle, though it has been largely dormant in the past year.

"As far as the principle of armed violence is concerned, (Mandela's) standpoint is so well known that it is unlikely it will change the outlook of the reader toward political violence," the board said.

Bloodied country, page 10

## White firebrand fights for Mugabe

From Jan Raath, Sanyati, Zimbabwe

PRESIDENT Mugabe described his party's candidate for the Makonde West constituency as "the pride of Zanu (PF)" last week.

The candidate has worked himself to a hollow-eyed semblance of his former self to win such an accolade. In the last five weeks he has covered 2,000 miles in his spluttering Datsun pickup to places where no vehicle had dared to venture. He has slept under the stars in brief respites from electioneering, and has probably exchanged the traditional hand-clapping greeting with every voter.

The candidate, as a day passing hundreds of ragged people along the tracks of Sanyati made clear, is the darling of the people who call him "our father", "our saviour" and, on one occasion, "our Gorbachov".

"It's been my first general election, and it's been super," said Mr Sean Hundermark, aged 37, a third-generation white Zimbabwean with the nickname *Kamhiripiri* (Little Red Pepper) from his ginger hair and fiery temper. "Voetsek," he bawled at every lean dog that crossed in front of the famous yellow pickup.

His white South African ancestry and his years as a District Commissioner in the Rhodesian Government's hated Department of Internal Affairs have not hindered his campaign.

Even, perhaps, the reverse. "Blacks (politicians) are no good," said Mr Pardon Miambo, a young clerk from a nearby cotton ginny. "They steal the money for our dev-

elopment, and they are not interested in us."

"We don't judge the skin," said Miss Grace Muchena, aged 24. "We have voted for him in our interest, because he can develop our area."

Indeed, the comprehensive study of Shona customs that was demanded of all District Commissioners has allowed him to stride a system that moves on sooth-saying omens, totems, extended family connections and downright skulduggery.

Mr Hundermark was brought up 12 miles from the farm of Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister. He went to a white school, a white teachers training college and his job as District Commissioner was a position reserved for whites.

At independence he joined the ruling Zanu (PF) party and rose rapidly until he was chosen by Mr Mugabe as a non-constituency MP in 1987. "I grew up with blacks, they were my friends, I spoke their language," he said. "Even as a kid I vowed I would help people less privileged."

The people of Sanyati have placed an enormous trust in Mr Hundermark. The flaunting of baobab, mopan and malala palm trees, the fields regularly raided by elephants, is the epitome of underdevelopment.

"All that people care about here is development," said Mr Johan Molai, a peasant farmer sipping beer outside Gwatidz bottle store.

"I don't care if he is greer orange, blue, he is on out side."

## Florence fire attack on vendors

Florence. Four African street vendors narrowly escaped death in a firebomb attack in Florence, the latest of a spate of racist incidents in the city, police said yesterday. The four men were sleeping in a caravan on the city outskirts on Thursday morning when a large petrol bomb was thrown in. The caravan was destroyed before firemen arrived but the occupants escaped.

The attacks against black workers, which began at the end of February when up to 80 men with baseball bats beat three North Africans, have tarnished the city's name. But many Florentines accuse the African street vendors of stealing custom from shops, blocking streets around tourist attractions and being involved in drug peddling. (Reuter)

How not to sell vacuums. Stockholm — Hell hath no fury like a saleswoman scorned. Two vacuum-cleaner saleswomen in Jönköping, southern Sweden, told to "get lost" by a housewife who answered their knock at the door, forcibly vacuumed every carpet while accusing the owner of keeping a dirty house.

The struggle to evict them took three hours and ended only after one of the cleaners emptied the contents of a dust bag on a living-room sofa. "It didn't matter what I said. They just wouldn't take no for an answer," Mrs Elisabeth Karlsson said. (Reuter)

## Correction

Our Middle East map on Thursday (page 12) omitted the demarcation line between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank territories.

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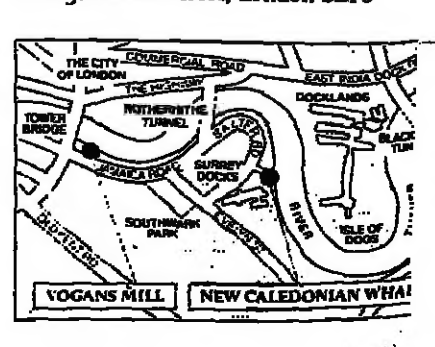
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# Shock treatment for Brazil's economy earns Collor 'fascist' label

From Charles Bremner  
Rio de Janeiro

DRIVERS approaching Rio de Janeiro's famous Copacabana beach can read some striking graffiti on the wall of a supermarket: "Collor = Hitler", it proclaims.

The target of the slur, the pugnacious President Collor, aged 40, has just drawn a similar slap from *Folha de São Paulo*, one of the country's most influential newspapers which, in a vitriolic attack, declared him to be Brazil's answer to Mussolini and denounced him for instigating "a climate of state terrorism".

Few leaders anywhere can have stirred such rapid antipathy within two weeks of taking office. The fascist comparisons, however, come mainly from one sector — shop-owners, bankers and soon-to-be unemployed civil servants, all stung by the spectacular austerity programme that the President imposed within hours of taking office on March 15.

But the cries of woe have served only to stiffen the resolve of the President, an upper-class populist who won over his country by presenting himself as a blend

of Indiana Jones, conquistador, saviour and yuppie. "We are not retreating," he said last Tuesday after he was forced to withdraw two emergency decrees which enabled the police to round up and imprison about 30 businessmen accused of "economic crimes".

The suspension of the decrees was hailed as something of a victory by beleaguered businessmen. Crowds had jeered as bank managers in several towns were led away in chains.

"The new law is a violence," Senator Marcio Tomaz Bastos, the former head of the Brazilian Bar Association, grumbled. "If you kill someone you can respond to the charge at liberty. But if you raise the price of a beer, you can be jailed for months without trial."

The jailing decrees had proved remarkably popular among the "barefoot and stirless" championed by the President. One survey showed that 94 per cent of the country favoured the automatic two-to-five year prison sentences they inflicted on merchants who imposed illegal price rises. Senator Collor has promised to have them reinstated as

law when he submits his whole package to Parliament next month.

According to the opinion polls this week, more than 80 per cent of Brazil's 150 million people support the austerity measures, which include an 18-month freeze on most bank accounts, wage and price controls, mass sackings in state-owned enterprises and the unleashing of police investigators on businesses and banks throughout the country. Only 5 per cent opposed them.

If anyone had any doubts that the President meant business when he promised to "slay with a single shot the tiger of hyperinflation" — which was at an annual 2,700 per cent in February — they have now lost them. No Brazilian has gone untouched by the chaos that is only just subsiding. Prices on the two main stock markets have slumped by more than a third, and an estimated 50,000 people have lost their jobs.

The President vowed to hit the "elite" classes and to avoid hurting the poor, who make up most of the population, but everyone has been forced to adapt to life without money. With cruzeiros, the

new currency devised by the Collor team to replace the cruzeiro, still in extremely short supply, life has become a desperate hunt to make ends meet.

In boutiques in Rio and São Paulo, they took to selling clothes by the pound weight. Some shops are offering barter arrangements. Food shops have been almost deserted.

Pawnshops are doing a roaring trade in wedding rings and other prized possessions. Miners in the Amazon, hit by a plunge in gold prices, have been exchanging gold for food. And at Manaus, in the heart of the Amazon, the crisis has forced the cancellation of the long-awaited reopening of the legendary opera house, where Plácido Domingo was to have opened yesterday in *Carmen*. The financial backers who restored the theatre to life after 83 years simply cannot pay their bills.

Tourists, whose numbers were already dwindling because of Brazil's crime wave, have been quickly leaving the country as the currency shortage demolishes the dollar exchange rate, bringing Tokyo-style prices. Most economists

agree, however, that Senator Collor and Senadora Zelia Cardoso de Mello, his young Economy Minister, had little choice but to impose what amounts to the most drastic financial shock applied in any state since the economic rebuilding of West Germany after the Second World War.

Neighbouring Argentina provided a salutary lesson in the dangers of weaker measures. There, President Menem is floundering amid continuing inflation and incipient recession after failing to carry through a milder shock programme which was also aimed at wrenching the country into the global free market.

Senator Collor's biggest challenge will be in sufficiently fine tuning the money supply without triggering full-scale recession, analysts say. Much will depend on winning back the confidence of the business community.

Senator Collor likes to remind his countrymen that they are playing for extremely high stakes. Failure could lead to a loss of international confidence that could relegate Brazil, the biggest Third World debtor, to the ranks of the

destitute. Failure would also deliver a heavy blow to hopes around Latin America that the continent can be brought into the modern economic age by charismatic free-market leaders such as Senator Collor, Senator Menem and Senator Mario Vargha Llosa, the novelist expected to win Peru's presidency next month.

Peru has already suffered big disappointment at the hands of President García, another young, confident man whose radical policies have accelerated the country's slide into economic chaos.

Senator Collor is gambling on retaining enough popularity to win over the majority of the Parliament when it comes to examine his package next month. His tiny National Reconstruction Party holds only 26 of the 570 seats but, with elections due in October, legislators will be reluctant to risk unpopularity by opposing a President who, at least for the moment, enjoys the support of his people. However, yesterday, leading politicians indicated they would challenge at least a dozen of the 200 or so decrees imposed by the President.

## Syria and Iran boost efforts on hostages

From Christopher Walker, Damascus

DAMASCUS and Tehran have stepped up co-operation in a new initiative to free the 17 Western hostages in Lebanon, but are meeting stiff resistance from the kidnappers who want a package deal involving huge ransoms, freedom for Arab prisoners in a variety of countries and guarantees for their future.

President Assad of Syria is expected to pay an official visit to Tehran after Ramadan, which began this week. "Presidents Assad and Khatamabadi have realized that they have a mutual interest in solving the crisis and so improving their international standing... The question remains whether, even between them, they have the heart to get the hostages out free," said a European official involved in earlier hostage deals.

The Syrians have tightened their grip around the southern suburbs of Beirut where the majority of the hostages are held. "They have moved in to prevent the hostages being smuggled out of the city... and the coffins in funeral processions leaving the southern slums are being checked at the smallest road now held by Syrian guards on it," the official added. "The latest information is that all 17 of the hostages, including Terry Sline, are alive."

As part of the new round of negotiations, the influential other of Iran's President, Mr. Ahmad Hashemi, left Beirut last Tuesday. He had been a week-long secret visit which included meetings with leaders of Hezbollah (The Party of God), the umbrella organization covering most of

the groups holding the Western hostages.

After two previous missions inside Lebanon by Mr. Hashemi, the Beirut magazine *Ash Shira* said that negotiations for a global hostage deal were in the "second stage" and that Mr. Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, might be the first beneficiary.

The American television network ABC was so convinced that a release was imminent that it had 12 staff members on standby in Damascus for much of March.

According to the European officials, elements of the package now being discussed through intermediaries in a number of different locations includes payments of ransoms of at least \$1 million (£625,000) for each hostage and the release of some 400 Arabs being held in jails in southern Lebanon, Israel, Kuwait and a number of European countries.

"There are two distinct levels to the negotiations, that is why they are so tangled and why they may go on for months," one explained. "Iran and Syria are looking for a quick end to an affair which is causing them international damage. But the groups of fanatics who have held these men for years are looking for some very concrete rewards before they agree to give them up."

Iran's main goal is thought to be the unfreezing of Iranian assets in the United States which some estimates put as high as \$10 billion, while Syria is anxious to get off America's blacklist for the supply of high technology items.

## Lebanon truce ends

From A Correspondent, west Beirut

MORE than 10 people died in gun battles between Christian forces in eastern Beirut led a precarious 28-day truce yesterday.

even others were reported dead in the fighting, which ended efforts to end the violence by a general Christian assembly, convened on day at the seat of the patriarch in Bkirk, of Beirut.

Police reported that thousands of artillery shells rained

down on seven villages in the Kiseirwan range north-east of Beirut and several neighbourhoods in the capital.

Witnesses and security sources said Lebanese Forces militiamen under Mr. Samir Geagea launched a pre-dawn offensive against General Michel Aoun's troops in the villages of Klaiat and Daraya. Police expected the number of dead and wounded to climb much higher. Both sides claimed victory, blaming each other for starting the assault.

## Purge on drink driving

Italian politicians, shocked by a rash of road deaths involving people driving home after all-night revels, are waging a tough campaign to curb drunken driving and limit use of fast cars by young people. The Cabinet is to introduce 20 tests for drunken driving, limit the time night spots can be alcohol, and set up a publicity campaign on the dangers of drinking and driving and earlier closing times for pubs.

## xton loses

An appeals court ruled Roman Catholic officials the right to fire a sexton who was homosexual returned an arbitration award of about £2,000 to the man. (AP)

## extradition

The Dutch Court ruled that Short, a US Staff sergeant who had been sentenced to six years in prison for his Turkish wife to be extradited to the US because he risks the penalty there for her pressure.

## Van Gogh show

The Netherlands has already sold 400,000 tickets to an exhibition celebrating the centenary of the death of Vincent Van Gogh. Organizers expect to attract nearly a million and a half people. (Reuters)

## Salad dressing saga turns sour for Newman



PAUL Newman, his hand bandaged after some rough play with his dog, Griggs, testifying in Bridgeport, Connecticut in a dispute involving his own brand of salad dressing, displayed on the witness stand. It was the second time the actor has appeared in court to counter claims by a delicatessen owner, Mr. Julius Gold, to have helped him develop "Newman's Own" (Reuters reports). The case was

first tried two years ago, but ended in a mistrial because of a mix-up with evidence. Mr. Gold is suing Mr. Newman and his partner, the author A.E. Hotchner, for a share in profits from the salad dressing on the ground that he played a key role in its marketing. Mr. Newman, apparently weary of the lengthy and sometimes rambling previous testimony, complained the whole thing was taking

"longer than the Academy Awards ceremony". The actor said he never dreamed the enterprise would become so complex. His two food companies, Salad King and Newman's Own, have rung up \$28 million (£17.5 million) in profits, all donated to charity. "It started off as a lark," he said. "I certainly never expected it to become commercial. I envisioned a cottage industry of some kind down in the

basement but I was told the federal Government would frown on the idea of making salad dressing where the horses had been." The actor went on to testify that Mr. Gold, who has claimed that Mr. Newman reneged on a promise to give him a share of the profits, has said he too would donate the money but would like to choose his own charity.

## Unesco's director baffled by critics

From Susan MacDonald  
Paris

THE controversial director of Unesco, Señor Federico Mayor, finds it "unbelievable" that Britain is not content with his changes to the organization.

With shock waves still reverberating from his abrupt staff changes earlier this month, Señor Mayor said he had done all that Britain and the United States had required him to in terms of a radical trimming of staff and budget.

He insisted that only 18 new posts had been created and that the extra cost would be only £1.25 million, when money saved by freezing 163 posts at headquarters and moving the occupants into the field was taken into account. He accused "emotional" people of deliberately trying to mislead the world about Unesco's achievements since Britain's departure, by issuing "inaccurate" figures.

However, according to an internal Unesco budget office memorandum dated March 7, Señor Mayor's measures had created an estimated 44 new posts in a package of "reforms" which would cost about £3.9 million. These figures were "corrected", reportedly on Señor Mayor's insistence, in another memorandum 24 hours later — prompting the director of staff to ask for an explanation of the lower estimate.

Two of his staff started a hunger strike in the Unesco building in protest at the reorganization. Britain, the US and Singapore left Unesco in the mid-1980s, complaining of politicization under Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, the previous Senegalese director-general.

Señor Mayor admitted that he took his staff reorganization decisions without consulting anyone "as is my prerogative". Contrary to Unesco's rules, the organization's executive board was not consulted before senior appointments were made. Moreover, those on two-year contracts suddenly found they would be renewed only for six months to assess performance.

## Le Pen keeps admirers waiting

From Philip Jacobson, Nice

BY accident or design, the stage was set perfectly for another of Jean-Marie Le Pen's triumphant appearances before the faithful at the opening of yesterday's National Front Congress.

With more than 1,000 delegates converging on the Côte d'Azur for the biggest and most important gathering this far right party has ever staged, its leader was again making the sort of headlines he evidently cherishes.

Well publicised battles in court over his allegedly anti-Semitic remarks in public; opinion polls suggesting that the French are increasingly behind the National Front's fervent anti-immigration platform; clear signs of nerves among the big parties about the inroads being made by National Front candidates in recent local elections; all are grist to the mill for this astute, forceful politician.

He operates in the genuine belief that the true depth of his support among the "real" ordinary French is far greater than that indicated by opinion polls — which currently give his party 12.5 per cent of the vote were a general election to be held today.

Several hundred of these *petits gens* (little people) had assembled early yesterday outside the magnificent Acropolis convention centre to greet

their hero. They waited... and waited, in a wind which grew steadily colder.

A good many were elderly people, by dress and appearance from that section of France which hovers somewhere between the bourgeoisie and the working class; small shopkeepers, garage owners, the *patron* of a successful *tabac*.

As the minutes, half hours and hours ticked by and M. Le Pen still did not materialize, a certain impatience set in, especially since by some oversight of organization the crowd was prevented from entering the hall until their leader had arrived. The familiar blue-



M Jean-Marie Le Pen: Undiminished energy

blazed muscles who provide security at all National Front gatherings became increasingly uneasy, muttering into their walkie-talkies and glowering at a French TV crew filming the scene.

Two young ladies dressed, approximately and fairly skimpily, as *Marianne* — incarnation of *La France* — were gradually turning blue with cold as they waited to present bouquets of lilies to the man who sometimes seems to be claiming the patriotic heritage of Joan of Arc.

Perhaps M. Le Pen felt he could afford a certain complacency. Close reading of recent opinion polls suggests that the National Front may be poised to break through the 10-12 per cent barrier that appears to represent its bedrock support.

Significantly, *Le Figaro's* latest survey found that although some 80 per cent of voters think the party is racist and over 70 per cent consider it poses dangers for democracy, almost a third of the French agree it is right on the burning issue of (coloured) immigration — the drum that M. Le Pen beats with undiminished energy.

Talking to people outside the Acropolis yesterday was uncannily like a rerun of conversations before the presidential election in France

two years ago. On that occasion, M. Le Pen shocked the political community by winning more than 14 per cent of the vote in the first round.

Since then, it has clearly been a serious mistake to write off National Front voters — actual and potential — as merely a seafaring fringe of the electorate. For every crop-haired tough, boiling over with hatred of *les Arabes*, there is an anxious small businessman from the provinces, profoundly concerned about the changes that have overtaken France.

They are not anti-Arab or anti-Semitic, they insist, simply pro-French. "Don't tell me there are not many British people who also worry about the way your own society is affected by black and brown immigration," said one middle-aged man from Alsace, Algerian war medals and parachute wings pinned proudly to his jacket lapel.

Nobody senses more instinctively than M. Le Pen that France may be approaching a crossroads in its attitude towards immigration — by which he means people from North Africa. He now believes he has succeeded in placing the National Front before voters as a viable alternative to the hopelessly divided, increasingly impotent parties of the "respectable" right.

## Ethiopia secures aid from Israel

From Richard Owen  
Jerusalem

AS AN Ethiopian delegation wound up talks in Israel yesterday, diplomats revealed that the Marxist regime of President Mengistu has become "virtually dependent" on Israel for economic and military aid.

The Israelis have been moving advisers into Addis Ababa to fill the vacuum left by departing Soviet officials. The *quid pro quo* for Israel is a steady income from arms supplies, freedom for Ethiopian Jews to emigrate and a guarantee that an independent Arab state of Eritrea will never be established.

Mr. Kesse Kebede, an adviser to President Mengistu, said that with both countries needing free passage through shipping lanes, "Israel and Ethiopia share the geostrategic goal of keeping the Red Sea a non-Arab sea".

Mr. Kebede said Ethiopia would soon open an embassy in Israel. Speaking fluent Hebrew, he added that "hundreds" of *Falashas*, or Ethiopian Jews, had been allowed to emigrate to Israel recently.

A glance at the map shows why Israel is wooing what would appear to be a natural political enemy. Ethiopia recently lost a key part of the strategic Red Sea port of Massawa to the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front. It also faces a war of attrition in Tigré, which adjoins Eritrea.

Israel fears that as Moscow pulls back Addis Ababa will cave in, and a new radical Arab state will appear. There have been persistent reports of big Israeli supplies of advanced weaponry. Some say that Israel has supplied "cluster bombs" in addition to rocket launchers and machine guns.

Separately, in Israel and the occupied territories yesterday isolated clashes with troops led to the death of at least one Palestinian as Arabs protested on "Land Day".

This annual event commemorates the 1976 killing by Israeli police of six Arabs in Israel protesting against the confiscation of their land.

The protest either side of the 1967 "green line" yesterday underlined Israeli Arabs' growing identification with the Palestinian *Intifada*, or uprising, now in its third year. The banned flag of the Palestine Liberation Organization appeared in some Arab villages in Israel, but a huge troop and police presence kept violence to a minimum, and the leaders of Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens were largely successful in their appeal for peaceful protest.

The mayors of Israeli Arab towns said their main concern was not so much the *Intifada*, which aims to establish a Palestinian state, but rather their economic plight. Municipal services have ground to a halt in Arab areas such as Galilee, with Arab councils blaming "discriminatory" underfunding.

## Obscenity row rocks 'a city without sin'

From James Bone  
New York

THE controversy over the travelling show of homo-erotic photography by the late Robert Mapplethorpe, which raised howls of protest in Washington last summer, has flared up again in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Accusations have been made by the County Sheriff that some of the works are "criminally obscene", and the chief of police has threatened to send in the vice squad when the show opens to seize the offending photographs.

Last summer the photographer's images of homosexual sex and naked children prompted legislation to ban government funding for "obscene" art. Now they are headed for Cincinnati, the headquarters of the National Coalition Against Pornography.

Cincinnati's Contemporary Arts Centre plans to open the Mapplethorpe exhibit next Friday.

Art sponsors have withdrawn their support from the gallery, and the chairman of the gallery's board was forced to resign after local businessmen threatened to withdraw their custom from his employer, a local bank.

"The exhibit is wrong," said Mr. George Ballou, a business leader whose property company halted funding for the gallery. "It's not something that should be in this community. I think it should be stopped. I think it's pornographic. I think it's sickening."

In matters of taste, Cincinnati is not a city with which to trifle. As well as being the headquarters of the National Coalition Against Pornography, it has a virtual ban on any pornographic material.

Unlike other American cities, there are, by law, no adult bookstores, X-rated theatre or peep shows, no bars with nude dancers, no escort services and no massage parlours. Residents are forbidden from seeing X-rated

movies at video shops, and cannot buy any but the most soft-core men's magazines at newsagents.

A recent production of the stage play *Equis* was reviewed by the police before being shown to the public, and no cinema in town had the nerve to show the controversial film *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

In an attempt to mollify its critics, the Contemporary Arts Centre has taken a number of unusual steps. Ticket prices for the show will be more than doubled from \$2 (£1.22) to \$5 so that it is self-financing.

Only people over 18 will be admitted to the show, and even then the most explicit of the photographs will be displayed in a separate area.

And in a pre-emptive move, aimed at preventing the police from seizing Mapplethorpe's works, the arts centre has also asked a court to rule on whether the photographs violate obscenity laws. But the anti-pornography campaigners are in no mood for

compromise. They claim the photographs violate community standards — the "obscenity" test laid down by the Supreme Court.

Activists have mounted a vigorous letter-writing campaign, and local radio talk shows and newspaper letter columns have been filled with the controversy.

Although Mapplethorpe's work was denied a showing at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington last summer, it found an alternative space in the city and made its way without incident to liberal-minded towns such as Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, Hartford in Connecticut, and Berkeley, California.

The renewed debate coincides with a fresh political battle in Washington over government funding for the arts, with President Bush proposing abolition of the ban on subsidizing "obscene" art which was passed after the Mapplethorpe controversy broke last summer.

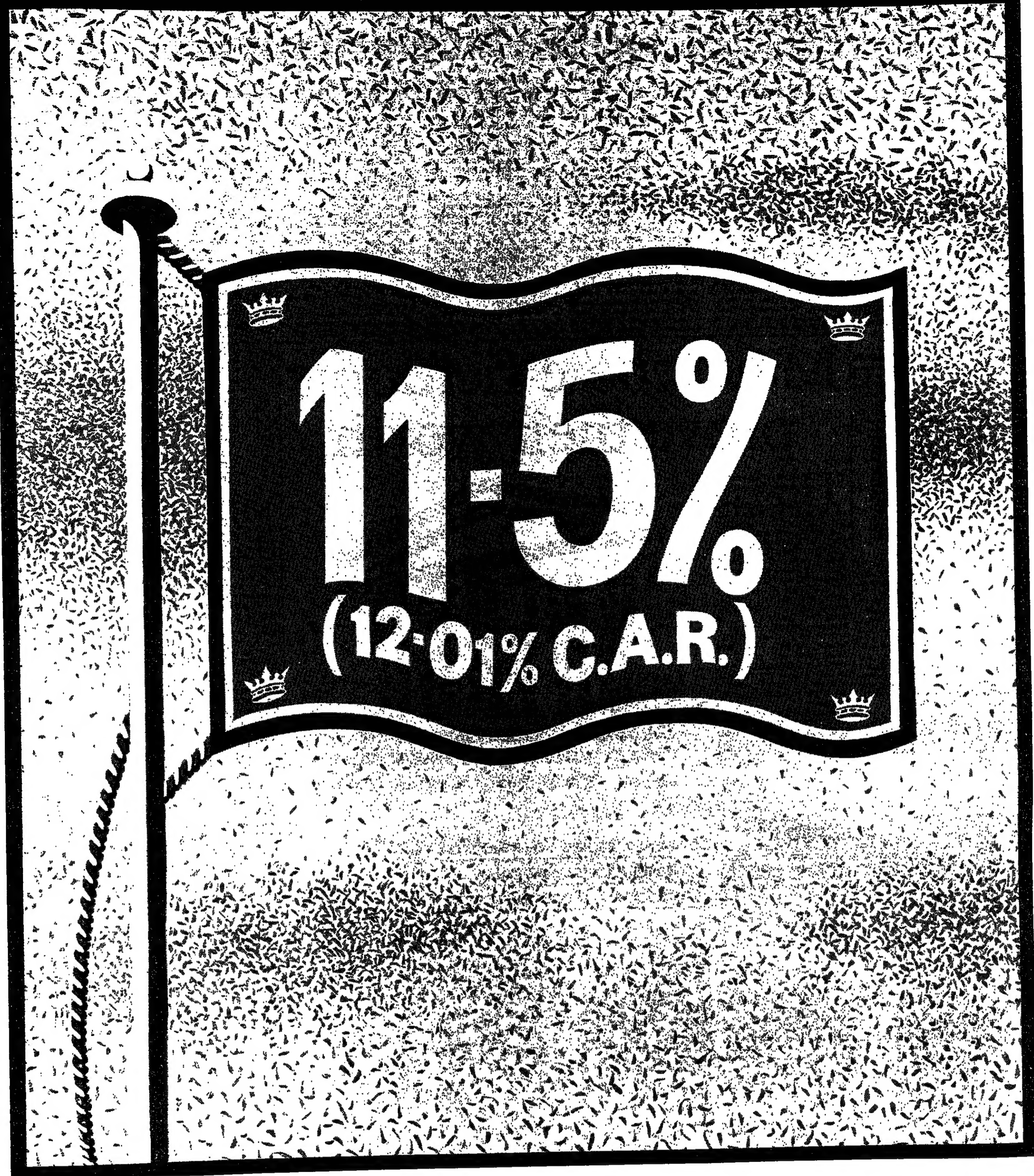
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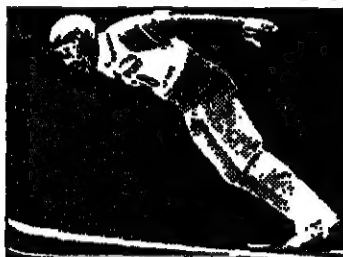


# TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

## Rio de Janeiro

Most of the clichés about Rio are true, which makes it a very satisfying city for a visiting writer. In particular, the one about football is true: a stroll along those beaches with such evocative names, Copacabana and Ipanema, demonstrates this. There are lots of football games going on: but where English lads throw down two piles of jumpers and play three-goals-and-in, Brazilians stand in a circle and play beautiful flicks. The ball never touches the ground: round and round the circle, over the top and back again. Every game is a poem of mastery of the ball. Football means different things to different nations: surely only Brazil could have produced a great player called Socrates. As Sir Alf Ramsey remarked after a defeat of England by Brazil: "We have nothing to learn from these people."

Do not believe that exile in Brazil will prevent this column keeping abreast of the latest news from the world of British ski-jumping. It appears that the long reign of the master is over: Eddie Edwards is no longer considered to be British number one by the British Ski-Jumping Federation. He has not competed for a year; he may even have retired. He has recently spoken



Edwards: slippery slope

about trips abroad to find sponsors, but he has shown no up-to-date results. While the federation insists that it wishes to keep on friendly terms with Eddie and to keep the door open for his return, it also says he is in no position to be considered champion. That honour now passes to James Lambert. He and Alan Jones, now to be considered the number two, have had a busy winter. Lambert spread his wings to take part in Nordic combined events — jumping and cross-country skiing. In one he managed a third and was sixth in a jumping competition. Lambert, as British number one, becomes a man with a mountain to climb.

More on winter sports. The recent Asian Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan, culminated in an abject apology to South Korea by the president of the organizing committee, Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, for "a series of mistakes". The first came after the South Korean speed skater, Kim So-hee, won the 1500 metres short-course event. The organizers started to play him the Mongolian national anthem. Realizing their error, they hastily grabbed the tape of another anthem and played that instead. It was, inevitably, that for North Korea. Once you start making errors, you can't stop, of course: the next day, Kim and another South Korean skater were introduced to the crowd as North Koreans. "There was no public intention or political motive," Tsutsumi assured the South Korean ambassador, who is reported to have shown "understanding".

It is important to get your priorities right. George Bush is doing so by combining a lightning visit to the Canadian prime minister, Brian Mulroney, next month, with the start of the baseball season. It is unclear whether the main purpose of the trip is Mulroney or the Toronto Skydome, where the Toronto Blue Jays start their season



Bush: rooting for Texas

against the Texas Rangers. The president's son, George Walker Bush, is part-owner of the Rangers. It is a baseball tradition for visiting clubs to throw out the first pitch at the first home game of the season, and since both dignitaries will be at the game, this involves a difficult question of baseballing protocol. "I don't want to do it if people think it's frivolous," said Bush.

Regular readers of this space will notice a new, rasping authority to my prose style. This is because I am no longer to be considered primarily as a writer. I am now a professional sportsman, the David Gower, who also writes for this newspaper. At the Potton Cross-Country event in Bedfordshire recently, I and my horse finished third in the Open Class. This earned us, in addition to a yellow rosette, a cheque for a fiver. I was pretty cool about it, but then we pros always are. Right, Dave?

The violence in Natal which has claimed 3,000 lives in five years casts a cloud over South Africa's entire future. Nelson Mandela, of the African National Congress, and Chief Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha movement, will be playing for enormous stakes when they meet at Taylor's Halt on Monday in an attempt to stem the violence. Both have appealed for peace before, only to be ignored.

The United Democratic Front/ANC say Chief Buthelezi and Inkatha are almost solely responsible, and accuse him of acting as a virtual extension of the white state. They point to numerous occasions when the police and army have stood by and allowed Inkatha to attack and kill. The UDF says its supporters suffer most casualties, proving Inkatha's aggressive intent, and that Inkatha continues to include within its inner councils warlords and "shacklords" in the squatter camps with fearsome private armies.

In the eyes of many young, educated and urbanised blacks, Inkatha stands for tribalism and the bad old Africa of blood-thirsty, autocratic chiefs. Buthelezi, they say, has played the government's game by agree-

R.W. Johnson sets the scene for the Mandela-Buthelezi talks

## Cry, the bloodied country

ing to hold power within the KwaZulu "homeland". Buthelezi, for his part, points out that he assumed power in KwaZulu only after consultation with the ANC, with whom he maintained good relations until the late 1970s. Indeed, he still sees himself as part of the ANC tradition, which he says has been hijacked by exiled radicals, most of them Xhosa. It was, he feels, these elements who were ultimately responsible for the UDF decision to move in on his political territory in 1985. This does seem to have been a planned move: the UDF instructed local lawyers in advance to be ready with affidavits because there was about to be a lot of trouble, and then bussed in "young comrades" from Soweto.

These militants, Inkatha alleges, attempted to win their point by intimidation, enforcing school or work stay-aways by brute force. Naturally, says Inkatha, its community leaders (so-called

warlords) sought to resist such tactics, and so the fighting began. Be that as it may, the fighting long ago took local root in the overcrowded townships and squatter camps around Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and is now deeply embedded in local and personal feuds as well as in criminal activity, for in manner of protection and extortion rackets thrive in such a troubled atmosphere.

Every night since November there have been houses in flames in Kwa Mashu township outside Durban. Mphumalanga, the worst trouble spot of all, is a little Lebombo. Many African adults are terrified of the children, for a whole generation has been brutalized in the fighting. Thousands of children, displaced from their homes, now live wild in the bush and hire themselves out as warriors.

But the children too, though increasingly ANC-aligned, are cross-pressured. During the

white election in September, the "comrades" threatened to break the arms of those who did not observe a school boycott; Inkatha bosses threatened violence against those who stayed at home. The result: lots of children went to school and had their arms broken at the gates.

Urbanization is accompanied by a rapid process of social differentiation. Beneath the shacklands one finds a growing African middle class, a large salariat and working class — and a great sea of unemployed. The troubles seem an unholy alliance of top and bottom against the middle, as shacklords on the one hand and desperate lumpen elements on the other prey on those in work. Some of those in the middle seek refuge by joining one or other party for protection; others try desperately to avoid any commitment.

Since November the prospect of negotiations with the whites has sharpened political com-

petition as the ANC, which is clearly gaining ground, seeks to take full advantage of its unbanning and its new momentum after Mandela's release, while Inkatha grimly and bloodily holds on. The first challenge that will confront Mandela and Buthelezi at Monday's meeting is simply whether they have the ability, the organization or the discipline to rein in their followers.

When I raised this question with Chief Buthelezi last month he felt that while an ANC-Inkatha pact would not stop the violence, it would mean they could combine their forces to crush those who still made trouble. But the sight of such a strong form of ANC-Inkatha collaboration would undoubtedly produce major defections from the ANC. There is, moreover, the difficult question of the white troops now deployed in many townships. The ANC demands their removal,

but it will have to confront the fact that the troop presence is by no means universally unpopular and that there may be no other way of enforcing the peace. The ANC may even have to contemplate its own future co-operation with the army in policing a peace settlement. These would all be difficult pills for the ANC to swallow and could endanger its unity and standing in other parts of the country.

Above all, though, the war in Natal poses the question of whether peaceful political competition can be achieved among the various contending black parties. There is a great danger that majority rule could lead not to a promised land but to the eruption of similarly bloody conflicts elsewhere.

There is, after all, the awful precedent of the 1879 Zulu war. The war saw the vengeful British inflict dreadful atrocities on the defeated Zulu people — bringing in heavy artillery to shell Zulu villages. But when the Pax Britannica was finally restored, the Zulus turned on one another, and the blood-letting made the casualties inflicted by the British seem as nothing. Might blacks throughout South Africa do the same as the horrors of apartheid are lifted?

Clifford Longley marks his card for the Runcie succession stakes

## Habgood by a head

Meas Ladbroke insist on treating the selection of the successor to Dr Robert Runcie as the Cantuar Stakes — with the first prize, presumably, two palaces and 10 years or so in purgatory. With bishops known officially by their Christian name and diocesan name, sometimes in Latin, the commentary could go like this:

"They're off! Straight from the starting gate like a bullet, Bill Petriburg on Funny Boy, is far ahead of the field at the first fence and going like a steam train. No one else has started yet except Dick Oxon on Ethical Pitfalls — and he's off at a gallop in the opposite direction. A posse is trying to assemble under Chelmsford — a bishop's gotta do what a bishop's gotta do — to fetch him back. But John Waine (for it is he) can't find his horse in the dark."

"Back at the start, Robin Armagh has remounted No Surrender, but seems to be waiting for an official escort before setting off. John Ebor is insisting that his horse, Public Faith, is purely hypothetical and refuses to mount. Just a minute... he's convened a seminar! John of St Albans is reading a statement to his horse, Press Association. Colin Winton is into his third genuflection before getting into the saddle on Basingstoke Man, but he's waiting for the next race, the London Cup..."

An ecclesiastical steeplechase can be good fun. It is not thought bad form in the Church of England to admit to being mildly ambitious, but the slight embarrassment associated with the worldliness of such thoughts is smothered, as in the case of sex, by treating them humorously.

The present Archbishop of Canterbury has a stock joke about two very status-minded prelates, a predecessor of his and an Archbishop of York, each of whom called himself Primate of England. On one occasion they both tried to occupy the same throne, and there was an uneasy push-and-shove. Eventually, this being the Middle Ages, the pope, with Solomon-like wisdom, solved the quarrel by making the Archbishop of Canterbury Primate of All England, leaving York with the lesser title. It might be called the two-thrones solution.

This primary primacy of Canterbury has established a well-trodden path from Bishopthorpe, York, to Lambeth Palace, a pilgrims' way which has no return journey. So whenever Canterbury has become vacant and York is occupied by a younger man who is fit and competent, there has usually been something of a presumption in his favour. There ought, therefore, to be something of a presumption in favour of the present Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood. There ought to be even more of a presumption in his favour, on this occasion, as he happens to be the outstanding churchman of his generation, with the conceivable exception of Dr Runcie himself.

Yet for various reasons, few in the Church of England regard him as a likely successor. He reinforced this feeling when he remarked, some time ago, that he is too old (63 in June) to be Archbishop of Canterbury at the time of the next Lambeth Conference, due in 1998.

The Church of England does not care very much about the other churches in the Anglican Communion, perhaps on the basis that they need it more than it needs them. It would not be easy to persuade the Church of England, therefore, that it could not have the man it wanted simply because it would be a bit inconvenient to Anglicans elsewhere. Dr Habgood's reasoning, if adopted as a principle for the future, would restrict the choice of Archbishops of Canterbury every time, and the only long-term solution would be to appoint a new archbishop halfway between Lambeth conferences, while not insisting invariably on retirement by 70. But that would be the tail wagging the dog.

Dr Habgood is a shade unpopular, for the superficial reason that he sometimes adopts a slightly patronizing manner, particularly when he feels called upon to point out the obvious. He is a further shade unpopular among conservative evangelicals for being tolerant of theological liberalism, and for being too clever to be narrow about doctrine. Anglo-Catholics are cautious towards him because he does not share their objections to the ordination of women. The more fundamentalist backbench Conservatives are hostile because he does not agree with them. One or two other marks are recorded against him in various black books, though none of them fatal.

Against these quite trivial objections are formidable credentials. He runs a good diocese and inspires loyalty in it. He is a great committee man — and the church is run by committees. He is an excellent theologian — and the Church of England will get out of its present mess only if it is made to think very hard. He was trained as a scientist and is the one man on the bench of bishops of whom it can realistically be said that he would probably have risen to the top in any profession he chose — as a Lord Chief Justice, Nobel scientist, Cabinet minister, vice-chancellor, or whatever.

The Church of England has to find the best man available, and all the candidates have flaws. Here, Dr Habgood does no worse than average. Comparing abilities, he easily comes top. Intellectually, he could eat his own words. Robert Eames, for breakfast. Dr Eames is no mean figure, so that is no mean tribute. And if Dr Eames is good enough, he is certainly young enough to succeed the Primate of the North when the Cantuar Cup is next in contention.

## Make these fiefdoms prove their worth



Rosemary Righter urges the West to adopt a tougher policy towards the UN special agencies

bring the rogue barons to heel. Instead, they have adopted what Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, the former US permanent representative at the UN, once called a "policy of pre-emptive capitulation", acquiescing in absurd and sometimes disgraceful political charades, containing themselves with minor amendments to fundamentally flawed programmes and tolerating managers and management practices that the worst-run nationalized industry would never accept.

By treating the UN (excepting, to some extent, the Security Council) as a Third World playpen, while deploring its "politicization", Western governments have contributed significantly to its decline. When they have taken action, it has been too little and too late. For 13 years, out of reverse racism, the West allowed an African lord of misrule, Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, to ruin Unesco, at least as he was apparent for at least a year that his successor, Señor Federico Mayor of Spain, is not the hoped-for new broom.

Yet last November, Unesco's "new" programme, which does little more than massage its old mix of activities into new packages, was accepted *non con*. It took Señor Mayor's overnight addition to Unesco's overblown payroll of at least \$6 million worth of appointments, all in the name of efficiency, to sting Western ambassadors into action. Creating these posts in the name of efficiency, Señor Mayor troubled neither to advertise

them nor to fulfil his legal obligation to consult Unesco's executive board on senior appointments. That has infuriated even France, which until now has been content to treat Unesco as an extension of its policies for Francophone Africa.

Unesco is probably beyond salvation. So may be the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, where the West has failed to unseat Edouard Saouma, under whom the FAO has become riddled with pork-barrel politics. Both may have sunk into irrelevance. But that cannot be said of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the chief executive of which resigned in October, leaving behind an organization deeply in the red and at odds with governments, the media, and itself.

Nor is it true of the World Health Organization, which does vital work and has until recently been one of the UN's best-run organizations. Yet in 1988 the West did nothing to stop the election as director-general of Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, WHO's regional head for Asia, although not one government thought him of sufficient stature. The chickens are coming home to roost.

The resignation this month of Dr Jonathan Mann, one of the most respected international operators the UN has ever fielded, puts in jeopardy the highly successful Global Aids Pro-

gramme which he created. Dr Mann gave as reasons for his resignation Dr Nakajima's "systematic interference" with the programme's management, and lack of commitment to its objectives. His departure is the most visible symptom of WHO's contagion with the UN diseases of autocratic yet indecisive management, poor staff morale and performance, and misdirected resources. His complaints are echoed elsewhere in WHO. The Essential Drugs Programme, which gives poor countries basic medicines at affordable prices, is in such disarray that the Nordic countries last week lodged a complaint.

Dr Mann's word carries immense weight, yet there is no indication that any Western government is prepared to intervene in what a senior British official last week described as "an internal staff matter, just a question of personalities". Excessive fidelity to institutional moulds will hinder international co-operation. Western governments need to decide whether or not they take UN organizations seriously as channels for multinational co-operation. If they do, they should forget about reforming the worst of them, build up the capacities of the small number capable of good work, and redirect funds accordingly.

Otherwise, they should be franker about the virtues of bypassing them. The collapse of the Berlin Wall has removed the familiar (and defunct) excuse that the UN functions badly, because it mirrors a world of loggerheads. The channels for co-operation have multiplied in ways which could never have been foreseen in 1945. Competition is healthy. It is time for the United Nations to be exposed to it.

## They can't all be having us on...



MATTHEW PARRIS

WHEN the first man landed on the moon, I was in Jamaica. At the beach, our transistor radio crackled out the news while a very large black lady sold coconuts.

I will never forget her reaction. She did not believe it. It was a trick. The Americans had made it up. The pictures were faked. She was quite sure. Her ignorance of space technology and the workings of the world's news media induced not intellectual humility, but blithe confidence in her own judgement. She might be a peasant woman, but she was not going to be fooled. On the eve of April Fool's Day, I miss that woman. We seem to be entering one of those times which do for humans what the volcanic upheavals of the geological period did for rocks. Imperial mountain ranges are being levelled and new ones grown up, the electoral ground is

everywhere quivering, steam is hissing from the most unlikely places and the political landscape is changing before our eyes.

The problem is that you just don't know what to believe. Since Christmas, I have been surveying each day's papers convinced that I am confronted by yet another bunch of April Fool's Day hoaxes gone off half-cock and too early, like daffodils in the snow.

What started it (and rumbles on) was *perestroika*. As the whole of the Eastern bloc shakes before our eyes, we only await Mr Gorbachev's appearance on TV wearing a red plastic nose, rocking with laughter and shouting "April Fool".

But before this background of earth-shattering unlikelihood dances a foreground of more trivial impossibilities.

It began with a press release on Ministry of Agriculture notepaper headlined "Minister opens egg plant". It was a new egg-packing factory. Then Labour MP Austin Mitchell started a series of written parliamentary questions about mice. Would the Prime Minister "raise the issue of the European Commission's proposed appointment of a European Mouse Care Expert?"

But surely, I thought, *The Times* could not be serious in its announcement that a leading

energy analyst, Dr Florentine Krause, had explained that "pigs could play a vital role in curbing global warming". He meant it. Apparently "pigs emit only 1.3 per cent of their diet as methane".

that is, they fart less than sheep. Sheep bore the brunt of yet another Ministry of Agriculture news release of whose seriousness I have still to be convinced. "Advice to pregnant women during the lambing period" was the headline. "Pregnant women should avoid close contact with ewes... If you experience influenza-like symptoms after coming into contact with sheep, seek immediate medical advice."

And, as April Fools' Day and the community care approach, the pace of pre-hoax incredulities has been hotting up. A certain Dr Bruce Reddington, of *Sunday*, wrote last week to *The Sunday Times* about AIDS. Dr R

accepts that up to 40 per cent of Africans will soon have AIDS; a prospect "of hundreds of millions of deaths". But to this cloud the doctor sees a silver lining. "In terms of overpopulation, energy consumption and the release of greenhouse gases, it will be the salvation of the planet."

And, lest unbelievable insensitivity be thought a white man's problem, take a *Financial Times* report of Robert Mugabe's present election campaign against the Zimbabwean opposition party, Zim. "Aids kills," says his Zanu television ad. "So does Zim." Mrs Thatcher might try that approach.

In the same week, the *Daily*

*Mail's* environment correspondent had warned of a "Plague of Ladybirds". "Sunseekers," he tells us, "will find a nip in the air as the gardeners' friend takes wing. People wearing yellow T-shirts on beaches in the South and East are apparently at greatest risk." Serious? Apparently.

But surely not this? "Misery is skin deep for millions," says the same paper. "The greenhouse effect could mean misery for millions of acne sufferers, skin experts warned yesterday."

"Speaking at the launch of National Spot Week..." No. I can't bear it.

Besides, there is time only for the latest news. I read somewhere landlady of Lord Linley's local, the Ferret and Firkin, is a theology graduate.

Tomorrow can only be an anti-climax.

مكتبات مصر





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## GERMANY DISPOSES

The past two days may prove to have marked a turning point in Anglo-German relations. This is not to say that the Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl have buried their differences. German reunification has deep implications for collective security and for the future of the European Community and the past week's speeches in Cambridge showed that argument will continue.

Yet the atmosphere has cleared perceptibly, largely through a greater flexibility on Mrs Thatcher's part. She proposed to extend the role of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to include free elections, the rule of law, and private property as fundamental human rights.

Her mooted of a "great alliance for democracy" is a sign that her European policy is willing to strike out in new directions, beyond merely reactive and preventive measures. She is ready to shape a new international order for which her distant admirers in Eastern Europe have been waiting.

The question of what Britain expects from a united Germany — and what it does not want — has lately been vexed. Germans, East and West, have urgently needed an answer. Mrs Thatcher's view is that the continuing presence of American and British forces in Germany, reduced in numbers but still including nuclear weapons, should be part of the reunification trade-off. She has refused to abandon her insistence that Germany's neighbours, above all to the East, are entitled to feel secure within their borders. She has maintained this insistence even at risk of some unpopularity amid the euphoria of the past winter.

This theme grates on many German ears, not because they presently harbour territorial ambitions, but because they feel insulted at the mere suggestion that they might ever again entertain such ambitions. They resent any suggestion that guarantees on this issue are still in order, some regarding it as British condescension, others as an anachronistic and insular fantasy.

In this they are naive. German reunification has already brought a number of understandable anxieties to the surface throughout Europe. While Germany may pride itself on its 40 years of democracy, it can hardly turn on even its milder critics and warn them that, unless they desist and grant it everything it

wants, it will revert to the nationalism of previous eras.

The anxieties are several, yet all are concentrated in the German past which, like a stubbornly malevolent imp, refuses to depart from the cheerful scene of family reconciliation. The November revolution of 1989 shared some characteristics with that of 1918. It came only after the old regime had been thwarted by forces generated beyond its borders — this time from the Hungarians and Mr Gorbachov. A national myth of revolutions from below should not blind Germans to the fact that the East German population generally obeyed the Ulbricht/Honecker regime until it became safe not to do so. Europe simply cannot and will not forget the still recent past.

More disturbing is the fact that Bonn was even more surprised and ill-prepared for last autumn's events than the rest of the world. Too cosy a relationship with the Honecker regime had blinded many to the fact that it had neither legal nor moral foundation. A narrow emphasis on providing for the creature comforts of East Germans had led the Westerners to disregard the illegitimacy of the regime.

Mrs Thatcher's emphasis on enshrining the rule of law in the new order is hence entirely appropriate to the German case. The gross material inequalities which will follow in the wake of reunification are a potential breeding ground for extremist political forces. All Germans should understand the concern of those other West Europeans who lived happily alongside the Bonn republic, but who view the accession of the former Prussian hinterland and the likely transfer of the capital to Berlin with trepidation.

Neutrality is the code-word for all that Britain does not want from the new Germany. Mrs Thatcher is right to fix on this, because only in a neutral Germany are these fears likely to find fulfilment.

Herr Kohl does not desire to play the part of European power-broker, on the Bismarck model, but his successors may find that temptation irresistible. Yet even Bismarck's genius did not in the end enable him successfully to play off East against West. Still less would a latter-day epigone be likely to pull off the feat.

## AFTER STALKER

In a society racked by violence, there are few issues more important than the quality and accountability of those charged with society's protection. There are also few issues more likely to be handled with economy of truth by embarrassed governments, for they are dependent on security forces to make and consolidate whatever progress can be made to contain the violence. This dependence inhibits politicians as they press for accountability. Could they one day press too far and provoke mutiny?

This question has hovered over each investigation into allegations concerning the behaviour of Royal Ulster Constabulary officers, from the mistreatment at Castlereagh, through the Stalker affair to the present Stevens inquiry into collusion between serving officers and militant "loyalist" groups.

Mr Stevens and his team appear to have reached two conclusions: that the problem can be diminished but not eradicated and that they have not discovered as much as they could about the contribution made by police officers to leaking lists of IRA suspects. So far, arrests have been confined to soldiers of the Ulster Defence Regiment, not the RUC.

These conclusions are both realistic and dispiriting. Mr Stevens laboured under a burden laid upon him by a statement made by the Attorney-General to the House of Commons on January 26, 1988.

There was, the Attorney-General said, prima-facie evidence from the Stalker-Sampson investigation that RUC officers had tried to pervert the course of justice but that the public interest weighed against prosecutions. It would be hard to find more discouraging words for any police officer subsequently asked to investigate internal RUC matters.

It is not, of course, the only barrier to the discovery of the truth. Internal investigations of policemen by other policemen are notoriously hard; examples of frustrated inquiries are equally prevalent among police forces on the mainland. What one writer has recently called the police "caneen culture" cements powerful loyalties which can prove stronger than duties

and rules. In the RUC, this combines with the communal imbalance of the force. Overwhelmingly Protestant, it has never managed to raise the proportion of Roman Catholics above one tenth of its number. The reason is simple: Catholic policemen are certain to become outcasts from their own community, and are particularly vulnerable to lethal assault.

Corruption of policemen is a risk when the rewards of crime are high. The corruption of policemen and troops living close to their own community by men of violence who live there too cannot be eradicated. Violence creates its own terror, and fear in the community corrodes standards and honesty. The risk of corruption increases the likelihood that in a religiously homogeneous force, leakers and colluders will remain undiscovered.

But, as the present inquiry appears to have decided, the risk can be reduced by improved procedure. It can also be confronted by a firm statement of the obvious from the top of the force: that there is no truth to the insidious suggestion that policemen might be right to leak intelligence information because of the frustration of trying to convict men of violence under the law.

This improvement of procedure is part and parcel of the steady application of mainland disciplines to the security forces over the last 20 years. Before that it was, in effect, insulated from external inspection. It is worth noting that, while these inspections and inquiries can often be criticized as incomplete, they have usually had some effect in stopping or at least limiting the wrongdoing at which they are directed.

In this case, the RUC has been forced to admit that the problem of leakage exists — something it had not previously done. The appointment of an outside team must have made repetition of such serious breaches of trust less likely. But their eradication awaits the suppression of communal violence and a more representative confessional balance among the defenders of the law.

## A BETTER 'OLE

Scientists engaged in digging very deep holes claim to have found, at a depth never before known to contain any kind of organic life, microbes which have survived for 3½ million years. We think we know the restaurant.

Before we turn to the bacteria, however, let us pause to consider the holes. Some of these are as much as half a mile or so deep, which is quite a distance to go to meet a microbe. But the mystery is deeper than that; indeed, it is about as deep as the holes. For the baffles were not fishing for microbes at all, and were as astonished as we would be if we came face to face with them when we were out snorkelling.

The report, in one of our contemporaries, gives no clue as to the reason for the holes. Clearly, the scientists were not drilling for oil, diamonds or other precious materials; these were serious seekers into nature's secrets, and the microbes were by way of bonus.

But if they were not after treasure, and had no idea that the microbes had their beady eyes on the intruders as the drill-pipe came nearer, what were the experts expecting to find down there? In the cartoon films it would be starfish, which would wiggle their limbs in time to the music. But it is extremely unlikely that a man in a white coat would descend half a mile into the briny in order to see a starfish at close quarters.

*A fortiori, nobody would go to such lengths,*

let alone depths, merely because on his honeymoon he had dropped overboard from the cruise-liner a copy of the latest Jack Higgins, and was anxious to find out how it ended.

And remember: the whole story is based on the fact that the presence of the microbes was entirely unexpected by the scientists, because they were sure that no life, however primitive, could exist at those levels. That rules out the theory that they were looking for science-fiction creatures — giant squid 90 yards across, swordfish wielding mechanical saws, ready-cooked plaice and chips, that sort of thing.

Yet if what the scientists were doing is strange, what about the microbes? A good night's sleep is just what the doctor ordered, and there is no reason why that should not apply to microbes, too. But even the Sleeping Beauty clocked up no more than a hundred years, and a good night's sleep prolonged for three and a half million is going rather exceptionally far.

It is tempting, though perhaps fruitless, to speculate about what a microbe, woken up after a kip lasting that long, would say: "Run my bath" is most unlikely. "Turn the mattress" hardly less so. "Scrambled eggs and grilled tomatoes, please" virtually out of the question. We shall settle for "What kept you?", and let the scientists answer.

## Police keeping house in order

From Chief Inspector John Colston

Sir, I am a chief inspector within the West Midlands police, a force currently under much scrutiny by the media. I agree that where it has been clearly established that police behaviour has lapsed below the normal high standards we set in this country it should be exposed by the media. There is, however, an inherent danger in concentrating on specific cases of police malpractice and applying issues raised in general terms to the police service as a whole.

In response to Bernard Levin's article, "Innocence in face of the evidence" (March 26), I pose the question, who re-investigated those cases recently heard by the Court of Appeal, involving, for example, the West Midlands Police Serious Crime Squad and the Guildford Four? In our case, in the original complaint investigation, it was police officers themselves, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority. I accept that those complaints were raised by defence solicitors.

The manner in which police officers from outside forces conducted themselves whilst undertaking those re-investigations is a more accurate reflection of the professionalism of the service today than the malpractice they exposed.

The police service is no exception to the rapid change of pace experienced by other public-sector organisations such as the health service and education. I firmly believe, as a middle-ranking officer, that all is not gloom within the service, nor that there is a need for direct-entry managers on the lines of the Armed Services (report, February 17).

I am involved with a management-training programme in which I have close contact with senior officers and civilian managers employed by the West Midlands police. At risk of accusations of naivety, I see no evidence to support the need of direct-entry managers. I see real evidence of senior police officers and managers within the force taking a critical look at themselves and the organisation and being prepared to ensure that we continue to provide an effective and efficient service with the resources available.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN COLSTON,  
Police Training Centre,  
Pershore Road, Edgbaston,  
Birmingham, West Midlands.  
March 29.

## Teaching of science

From Professor R. J. Blin-Stoyle, FRS

Sir, References to the teaching of GCSE balanced science in your columns, most recently by Dr Peach (March 28), imply that a science teacher will be expected to teach across the whole science curriculum. Although this is generally the situation in the early years, at GCSE level balanced science can readily be delivered by specialists teaching their own subjects.

The important requirement, however, is that this teaching should be carried out in a co-ordinated fashion so that the key inter-disciplinary areas are treated properly and the pupil benefits from the reinforcement in understanding that one area of science can give to another.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER BLIN-STOYLE,  
University of Sussex,  
Brighton, East Sussex.  
March 28.

From Mr J. Darnon

Sir, As a practising chemistry teacher in a comprehensive school I am being forced to give up the teaching of chemistry as a separate subject. The reason I am given is that the National Curriculum demands it. In my view, one certainly could not follow an A-level course in chemistry on the basis of the National Curriculum. Yours faithfully,  
J. DARNON,  
29 Greenhill Road,  
Heighington, Newton Aycliffe,  
Co. Durham.  
March 25.

## Misuse of byways

From Mr Peter Facey

Sir, This club promotes the responsible use of "Boats" (byways open to all traffic) by four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles for recreation. Our code of conduct includes a 25 m.p.h. speed limit, turning off engines for horses, and the avoidance of surface damage. If nuisance is caused a council can permanently cancel vehicular rights even on a "Boat" by applying a traffic regulation order against which there is no appeal.

"Boats" are coming under pressure because of the growing numbers of 4WD vehicles in the leisure class. To enable owners to test their skill off the road, this club organises events most weekends on private or Ministry of Defence land for which we pay. But such facilities are becoming increasingly scarce due to planning constraints and conservation measures such as sites of special scientific interest.

The long-term solution of this problem, in my view, must lie in a better partnership between land-owners and 4WD-users. But planning and agricultural diversification policies must change to permit this. Yours faithfully,  
P. V. FACEY,  
All Wheel Drive Club,  
134 Sandhurst Lane,  
Ashford, Kent.  
March 20.

## Questions on the Tory leadership

From Sir John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge (Conservative)

Sir, To judge from the news media, we are passing through an era comparable to the dark days after Dunkirk in 1940. Of course, there is a lot wrong in our society today, yet common sense tells us that all is not wrong.

The nation has never been so prosperous as now; never have so many people owned their houses or been in work; never before have so many owned motor cars, or travelled abroad so often and so far.

Are we not becoming a nation of moomers?  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STOKES,  
House of Commons.  
March 28.

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, MP for Becheyneath (Conservative)

Sir, It did you no credit to say of Michael Heseltine (leading article, March 26), "he is just a flash in the pan". Those who watched his performance as Secretary of State for Defence, and in particular his vigorous and effective campaign against CND and his drive for greater efficiency in the Ministry of Defence, will know he is a serious, and indeed highly impressive politician.

For some of us the problems facing the Government go deeper than personalities, interest rates, and the community charge. The Government has not been behaving like a Conservative Government.

Given our small lead at the last general election, in terms of share of the vote, it has been unwise to push through policies that so lacked public support, and which had not been properly considered by experienced people outside the Government. We have attempted too much; we have taken on too many groups. We have chosen confrontation rather than encouraging evolution. This is now reflected in by-elections and opinion polls.

In the European Community we have taken one step forward, one step backward. As a London MP I fear what this might do to the future of the City of London.

Time is short, but not too short for the Cabinet to stop behaving like 19th-century Whigs (the Harrods affair was the latest example), and to bring back the values and traditions of our party under leaders of the calibre of Churchill and Macmillan. We need to remember the need for competition; to recall our historic role to unite a divided society. We need to consider ourselves again as the party of Europe.  
Yours faithfully,  
CYRIL D. TOWNSEND,  
House of Commons.  
March 26.

From Mr William Shepherd  
Sir, Only the churchist would seek to deny the signal services which Mrs Thatcher has rendered to this country, although it is all too easy to forget the 22 per cent inflation,

## Inflationary trends

From Professor Emeritus David Bell

Sir, Much as I dislike supporting the Leader of the Opposition, I must say that high interest does increase inflation, as measured by the retail price index, in three ways — the direct effect of mortgage costs in the index; increasing the costs of every enterprise which needs to borrow working capital, and encouraging larger wage claims. The Government has to pay higher interest on Treasury bills, as well as on longer-term Government securities and National Savings.

The classic definition of "inflation" is "too much money chasing too few goods", but this is no longer useful when the quantity of

the trade union-dominated policies, and the endless millions of taxpayers' money paid out to support inefficient socialised industries.

But to decide that the time is ripe for her to retire as Prime Minister is neither churchist nor perverse. For she has now become, unwittingly or unwittingly, the enemy of the concepts for which she stands and to which she has made such significant contributions. Her personal unpopularity is casting a shadow on policies that many would consider vital to our society. Abroad, filtering judgments on Europe, South Africa, and Germany are earning for us a far from splendid isolation from our partners.

In a world blessed or cursed with instant communication, this unpopularity is being ruthlessly exploited. Comfortably ensconced professionals in the universities, schools, and hospitals are using it to try to prevent an urgently needed shake-up in the services for which they are responsible.

The extent to which Mrs Thatcher's unpopularity is being exploited to mislead and misinform almost defies belief. What percentage of even the "informed" element of the community realises that the resources handed to the NHS have in the last decade increased by 40 per cent in real terms, that social security has benefited similarly, and that Government spending is nearly 40 per cent of the GNP?

However unjust the pressure may be, Mrs Thatcher should walk. Much of the task of rescuing the country from socialism and trade union domination has been completed. A less powerful, less dynamic leader might well fill the need of the times, concentrating upon social and industrial improvement. To find such a leader, one would not have to look much further than Sir Geoffrey Howe, whose compassion, integrity, and solid abilities make an appeal to a wide section of the community.  
Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM SHEPHERD,  
77 George Street,  
Portman Square, W1.  
March 28.

From Professor Emeritus Bernard Crick

Sir, At times when Hayek is no help, one may turn to Machiavelli: Pope Julius II was impetuous in everything; and he found the time and circumstances so favourable to his way of proceeding that he was always successful. The brevity of his pontifical life, however, did not let him experience the country. If there had been some time when it was necessary for him to act prudently he would have come unstuck: he could never have acted other than in character. I conclude, therefore, that whereas men are obstinate in their ways, men prosper so long as fortune and policy are in accord, and when there is a clash they fail (from the Penguin edition of Machiavelli's *The Prince*).  
Yours very sincerely,  
BERNARD CRICK,  
8a Bellevue Terrace,  
Edinburgh 7.  
March 28.

goods can be increased by importing more than can be exported, so change in the r.p.i. is the most useful, as well as the most widely used measure of inflation.

In reply to Mr Garvin's second point (March 28), figures from 1970 to 1988 do not give much support for the idea that borrowing is reduced by high interest.

It is also an illusion that money supply could easily be controlled by Government. The tradition of the Bank of England is of accommodation, i.e. it will always provide what is needed, though probably at an appropriate rate of interest.

Yours faithfully,  
D. A. BELL,  
87 East End, Wokington,  
Beverly, Humberside.  
March 28.

## Canterbury succession

From Mr John Madeley

Sir, In your review of churchmen liable to succeed Dr Runcie (March 26) you say that Irishman Dr Robert Eames is likely to be short-listed "if only to placate opinion in the rest of the Anglican Communion".

This world-wide Communion consists of between 60 and 70 million people, most of whom live in Africa and Asia, where the Church is growing very fast. The Archbishop of Canterbury is leader of these Christians. I am not convinced they will be pleased by the listing of Dr Eames, no matter how strong his candidature.

In view of where the geographical strength of Anglicanism lies, surely an African or Asian bishop has a strong claim to be considered.  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MADELEY,  
19 Woodford Close,  
Caversham,  
Reading, Berkshire.  
March 26.

From the Rector of Norwell

Sir, For Mr Harry Greenwood to say that the Church of England must eschew politics (report, March 26) is quite simply a nonsense. Whatever else it is about, politics is about making choices, choices inevitably possess a moral dimension, morality is part of the business of religion, religion is surely the concern of the C of E.

Yours,  
ROBERT WHITTAKER,  
Norwell Vicarage,  
Main Street,  
Norwell, Nottinghamshire.  
March 26.

## St Paul's reply to Ilea chief

From the Dean of St Paul's

Sir, Following the letter from Mr Neil Fletcher (March 30) I would just like to point out that the service for the Inner London Education Authority on March 27 was not planned solely by the Dean and Chapter, but by a committee consisting of representatives of Ilea as well as St Paul's.

It was Ilea that requested a service in St Paul's. A great deal of care went into the compilation of this service, which was agreed by the Ilea representatives, who played a full part in its preparation. It was our hope that political controversy would be avoided. An act of worship in St Paul's is not the place in which to make a party political point.

At the beginning of the service, I said in my welcome: "The time for post mortems is over. We here now, at this service, have simply to thank God for the past and pray for the future." That, as I understood it, was the theme.

The Bishop of London, in his address, while thanking God for the past and recognising that crises may have been made, encouraged us all to look hopefully to the years ahead. Mr Fletcher's personal intervention struck a jarring note in what I believe to have been a truly worthy act of worship.  
Yours faithfully,  
T. ERIC EVANS,  
The Deanery,  
9 Amen Court, EC4,  
March 30.

## Youth training

From Mr Brian Jarvis

Sir, As a managing agent for YTS (youth training scheme) in hairdressing, we are at present conducting a survey of nearly 1,200 trainees who joined our YTS programme between September, 1983, and September, 1987.

So far we have had replies from approximately one sixth of the total from the group that Professor Byrner's study (report, March 26) would indicate have a lack of drive.

From this initial response, 73 per cent are in employment, 6.5 per cent own their own business, and 4 per cent are staying at home to raise a family. One response was from a young lady who, having qualified as a hairdresser, is at present working in a factory in order to raise the money to open her own business.

Perhaps the lack of drive suggested by the Byrner study has more to do with the nature of the training received or the industry in which they work rather than the young people themselves.

For all that some people may look down on the hairdressing industry, it would appear that the youngsters who enter it are not just interested in money and the short-term prospects.

It is a pity that the severe cuts which are about to be made in the funding of youth training will mean that the low-pay sectors such as hairdressing may well find it impossible to continue to use YTS as a method of recruitment and training.  
Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN JARVIS  
(Managing Director),  
Hairdressing Training Associates,  
Swan Court, Waterhouse Street,  
Hemel Hempstead,  
Hertfordshire.

## Being prepared

From Mr C. S. Clark

Sir, This morning (March 26) I received the Focus report on electricity privatisation. Three statements seemed to be of particular interest:

- "The CEBG was probably the best power-generating company of its type in the world".
- "Two competitive generating companies... will emerge from the CEBG at the end of the month".
- "A new chapter in the history of Britain's electricity industry opens from midnight on Friday..."

This afternoon I have taken the precaution of checking that our hurricane oil lamps are in order, and that we have a supply of candles.

Yours truly,  
C. S. CLARK,  
The Cottage, Staplehurst Road,  
Carshalton, Surrey.  
March 26.

## Late dealings

From Mr S. A. Hill

Sir, Considering the front page of your Business Section today (early editions) "The US market opened one hour later yesterday because of British summer time". How nostalgic. It recalls the days when fog in the English Channel used to cut off the Continent.

Yours faithfully,  
S. A. HILL,  
48 Beeton Road,  
Horton Moor,  
Stockport, Cheshire.  
March 27.

## Waste of time

From Mr John W. S. Preston

Sir, I have just spent odd moments this last weekend adding one hour to the time on up to 20 clocks. Later this year I shall spend a lot more time reversing the whole process.

Why do digital clock manufacturers not make the time setting go backwards as well as forwards?  
Yours faithfully,  
J. W. S. PRESTON,  
Chertion, 10 Manor Way,  
South Croydon, Surrey.  
March 26.











## SATURDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

## Dawson takes the Knocks

TELEVISION CHOICE

Peter Waymark

● In the corny jokes business, Les Dawson's are better than Bob Monkhouse's and delivered with incomparably more style. While the Monkhouse "wife" gags belong to the Benny Hill school of male chauvinism and hark back to the 1950s, Dawson turns the genre on its head with such offerings as "My wife's run off with the man next door" — face creases into a sob — "Oh, I do miss him". It would be too much to expect that when Dawson takes over from Monkhouse as the host of *Opportunity Knocks* (BBC1, 7.10pm) he can work the same subversive magic that



Subversive magic: Les Dawson works miracles (BBC1, 7.10pm)

has turned a tatty game show, *Blankety Blank*, into compulsive viewing. He must temper his act or he will leave his young hopefuls hopelessly upstaged. And he will be mindful that it was *Opportunity Knocks*, back in the 1960s, which gave him his break. But I cannot believe that the real Dawson will not see through and if he turned up as the host of *The Money Programme* I would still make a point of switching on.

● After some disappointing offerings in its peak Saturday evening slot, notably Phil Redmond's *Waterfront Beat*, BBC1 plays safe with Perry Mason Returns (7.55pm), the first in a series of feature-length stories. Of course it is formula stuff and of course Mason always wins. It also has the virtues of satisfyingly crafted and immediately comprehensible narratives, the built-in drama of the courtroom battle and an absence of car chases and tawdry violence.

● Another splendid Powell-Pressburger double bill starts with *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* (BBC2, 9.30pm), which Winston Churchill tried to ban as being unpatriotic. It is more complex than that, a searching examination of the military mind over three generations which, daringly for its time (1943), presented a sympathetic German. The spy thriller *ContraBand* (BBC2, 12.05am) has more conventional material but no less inventive treatment.

● The Irish drama *Hard Shoulder* (Channel 4, 10.00pm) starts as a whimsical comedy about a small-time salesman trying to dispose of a batch of stolen fire extinguishers before developing into something darker. The pace is leisurely; pleasing performances maintain the interest. The Irish Tourist Board will not thank the production for making the countryside look so dreary.

## BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Maths — Looking at Equations 7.05 The Making of the Open University 7.30 Saturday Stars Here! Young people's entertainment presented by Wayne Jackson and Ian Gregor beginning with Playdays. The story is Nicola Russell's *Jelly Works* (7.55) Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon in which they play

clueless slumbers (7.55) *Adventures of Mighty Mouse* 8.15 Tales of the Rodent Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Cardboard Box. Halliwell's Calendar. Industrial Museum provides the setting for another mystery. An empty cardboard box is sent to Holmes and Watson's offices in Baker Street. Meanwhile, Holmes's character begins to be transformed. The special guest is Bernard Bresslaw 8.35 Thundercats. Animated science fiction adventures (7.55)

9.00 Going Live! with Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene. This week's edition affords the chance to look behind the scenes of a rock press conference with top promoter Harvey Goldsmith; and astronomer Heather Couper has the latest news on Austin, the sky's newest comet. Other guests include comic actress Su Pollard and the Fat and Frantic band 12.15 Weather

12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: a preview of this afternoon's programme; 12.25 Boxing: the British cruiserweight title fight between Johnny Nelson and Lou Gant from London's York Hall; 12.40 Hockey: highlights of England v The Netherlands women's international at Wembley; 1.00 News; 1.05 Motorcycling: the World Trials championship from Reading; 1.35, 2.45 and 3.45 Rugby League: the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semifinal between Oldham and Wigan at Central Park, Wigan; 3.30 and 4.00 Rowing: the 130th Oxford and Cambridge University boat race which begins at approx 4.00; and a recording of last weekend's women's race; 4.35 Final Score

5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 5.15 Regional News and Sport 5.20 Today! Tony Robinson presents cartoons charting the career of Tom and Jerry

5.45 The Flying Doctors: Out of the Clear Blue Sky. This week's adventure for Australia's Rural Flying Doctor Service team based in the outback town of Cooper's Crossing involves an alcoholic salesman whose visit to the town ends in tragedy. Starring Robert Grubb, Liz Burroughs and Peter O'Brien. (Ceefax)

6.35 Jim'll Fix It. Among those for whom Jimmy Savile makes dreams come true are 81-year-old, grandfather, Fred Barber who returns to his old school to see how times have changed; twins who become assassins to Paul Daniels; and a youngster who receives expert culinary advice from the famous Roux brothers. (Ceefax)

7.10 Opportunity Knocks (see Choice) 8.00 Fanz: Perry Mason Returns (1988). (Ceefax) (see Choice) 8.30 News and Sport. With Michael Burk. Weather

9.30 Follow Your Nose: What a Relief. Highlights of sketches and bloopers from Comic Relief's first years and a review of last week's *Follow Your Nose*. Stars appearing include the Young Ones, Rowan Atkinson, Emma Thompson, French and Saunders, Penelope Keith, Cliff Richard and Ben Elton. (Ceefax)

10.30 Paramount City. A brand-new series presented by Arthur Smith featuring some of the best alternative comedians. The term "alternative" disguises wide degrees of talent but this opener hits a high standard with Helen Lederer, Denise Leary and Angela Clarke

11.10 *The Formula* (1980) starring Marlon Brando and George C. Scott. A convoluted thriller about a Los Angeles cop investigating a secret formula for making petrol from coal developed by the Nazis. A grisly trail of bodies leads him to the mysterious project in West Germany. With Marthe Keller and John Gielgud. Directed by John G. Avildsen

1.05am Weather

## ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News read by Susie Grant, followed by Good Morning London presented by Ulrika Jonsson. 7.00 WAC 90 presented by Michaela Strachan and Mike Brown

9.25 Metemorphosis. This week's special guest is Jason Donovan, who introduced his new video, *Hang on to Your Love*. Also featured is music from Sonia and the new group Shooting Party and the first of Andrea's films from Baja in California

11.30 The ITV Chart Show 12.30 The Munsters Today. Updated version of the comedy series about a ghoul family

1.00 News with LWT News and weather 1.05 Film: Back Street (1941) b/w. Romantic weepie starring Margaret Sullavan and Charles Boyer as a couple in love. But they cannot be together as Boyer is already married. Directed by Robert Stevenson

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**Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Stephanie Billen**

## Peter Waymark

● A five-part survey of the British television commercial, *Washes Whiter* (BBC2, 8.05pm) is the best treatment so far, eschewing the temptation to make fun in favour of serious (but unusty) and pertinent analysis. The format mixes a rich selection of clips with comments from the advertising industry. Tonight's opener shows how ads for washing, cooking and cleaning have constructed images of the housewife, from the passive homemaker of the 1950s to the superwoman of the 1980s. In the early years commercials patronized women and played on their guilt. Later came the



**Mary Holland:** Katie, traditional  
Oxo housewife (BBC2 8.05pm)

independent career woman, though in the ads she still cooked the meals and did the cleaning. In the 1990s, it is suggested, something will have to give. Be sure that J. Walter Thomson will be ready.

● Pick of the rest: *Kremala Farewell* (BBC2, 10.10pm), a potent drama about Stalin's Soviet Union... *The South Bank Show* (ITV, 10.35pm) on composer Carl Davis and the Temba Dance Company... and the repeated first series of *The Black Adder* (BBC1, 8.05pm).

## RADIO CHOICE

**Peter Davalle**

● The exclamation mark in *Hallelujah!* The Chorus (Radio 4, FM, 5.00pm) is important. This *Options* documentary—the first of two—is more a hymn of praise to the London Philharmonic (‘choir’ than a feature about Handel’s *Messiah*). In truth, we hear surprisingly little of, or about, the Hallelujah Chorus today. Next Sunday’s instalment contains something more of it, with some putting the chorus through their paces. Two bits of good news for attending recruits is that the London Philharmonic is not necessarily looking for trained singers, and that Richard Cooke, the chorus master, sets limited stress by a preliminary sight-reading test. Recruits must, however, blend in with the rest of the choir, he says — a condition which I imagine only demented unilateralists, or professional soloists, will find unacceptable.

# RADIO 1

**FM Stereo** — all day in London, the Midlands, the North, South Wales, Avon and Somerset, Oxfordshire, central Scotland and Belfast and nationally between 5.00pm and 7.00pm and **WFM** News on the half-hour from 5.30am until 12.30pm, then at 2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30 and 1.30pm. **Radio 4** and **Liz** Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 12.30pm Pick of the Pops 3.00 Pop of the Form 3.30 Phillip Schofield 5.00 Top 40 7.00 The Anne Nightingale Request Show 8.00 **Radio 2** show 11.00-12.00pm **Pop Hyms**

# RADIO 2

FM Stereo (except 1.00pm-7.00) and **MW** News on the hour  
4.00am David Allen 5.00  
Graham Knight 7.30 Good Music  
Sunday 9.00 Melodics For You  
11.00 Your Radio 2 All-Time  
Greats 2.00 Benny Green 3.00  
Sounds Easy 4.30 Sing Somers  
Simple 5.30 Charlie Chester  
7.00 Sunday Serenade 7.30  
Operetta Nights 8.30 Sunday  
Half-Hour 9.00 Your Hundred  
Tunes 10.45 The Arts  
Programme 12.05 Sounds of  
1950s 1.00am-4.00 Nightride  
**MW** as above except 3.25-  
5.30pm Football special

## WORLD SERVICE

[illegible]

## RADIO.4

**1.0** **LW** (s) stereo on **FM**

**5.50am** Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing: Weather

**6.10** Prelude with Marjorie Lonsdale (s)

**6.30** Morning Hiss Breaks with Jack Hywel-Davies, Belle on Sunday from St Patrick's, Salford, Northern Ireland (s) **6.55** Weather

**7.00** News

**7.10** Sunday Papers

**7.15** **9.15** **9.30** **9.45** **9.55** **10.00** **10.05** **10.10** **10.15** **10.20** **10.25** **10.30** **10.35** **10.40** **10.45** **10.50** **10.55** **11.00** **11.05** **11.10** **11.15** **11.20** **11.25** **11.30** **11.35** **11.40** **11.45** **11.50** **11.55** **12.00** **12.05** **12.10** **12.15** **12.20** **12.25** **12.30** **12.35** **12.40** **12.45** **12.50** **12.55** **1.00** **1.05** **1.10** **1.15** **1.20** **1.25** **1.30** **1.35** **1.40** **1.45** **1.50** **1.55** **2.00** **2.05** **2.10** **2.15** **2.20** **2.25** **2.30** **2.35** **2.40** **2.45** **2.50** **2.55** **3.00** **3.05** **3.10** **3.15** **3.20** **3.25** **3.30** **3.35** **3.40** **3.45** **3.50** **3.55** **4.00** **4.05** **4.10** **4.15** **4.20** **4.25** **4.30** **4.35** **4.40** **4.45** **4.50** **4.55** **5.00** **5.05** **5.10** **5.15** **5.20** **5.25** **5.30** **5.35** **5.40** **5.45** **5.50** **5.55** **6.00** **6.05** **6.10** **6.15** **6.20** **6.25** **6.30** **6.35** **6.40** **6.45** **6.50** **6.55** **7.00** **7.05** **7.10** **7.15** **7.20** **7.25** **7.30** **7.35** **7.40** **7.45** **7.50** **7.55** **8.00** **8.05** **8.10** **8.15** **8.20** **8.25** **8.30** **8.35** **8.40** **8.45** **8.50** **8.55** **9.00** **9.05** **9.10** **9.15** **9.20** **9.25** **9.30** **9.35** **9.40** **9.45** **9.50** **9.55** **10.00** **10.05** **10.10** **10.15** **10.20** **10.25** **10.30** **10.35** **10.40** **10.45** **10.50** **10.55** **11.00** **11.05** **11.10** **11.15** **11.20** **11.25** **11.30** **11.35** **11.40** **11.45** **11.50** **11.55** **12.00** **12.05** **12.10** **12.15** **12.20** **12.25** **12.30** **12.35** **12.40** **12.45** **12.50** **12.55** **1.00** **1.05** **1.10** **1.15** **1.20** **1.25** **1.30** **1.35** **1.40** **1.45** **1.50** **1.55** **2.00** **2.05** **2.10** **2.15** **2.20** **2.25** **2.30** **2.35** **2.40** **2.45** **2.50** **2.55** **3.00** **3.05** **3.10** **3.15** **3.20** **3.25** **3.30** **3.35** **3.40** **3.45** **3.50** **3.55** **4.00** **4.05** **4.10** **4.15** **4.20** **4.25** **4.30** **4.35** **4.40** **4.45** **4.50** **4.55** **5.00** **5.05** **5.10** **5.15** **5.20** **5.25** **5.30** **5.35** **5.40** **5.45** **5.50** **5.55** **6.00** **6.05** **6.10** **6.15** **6.20** **6.25** **6.30** **6.35** **6.40** **6.45** **6.50** **6.55** **7.00** **7.05** **7.10** **7.15** **7.20** **7.25** **7.30** **7.35** **7.40** **7.45** **7.50** **7.55** **8.00** **8.05** **8.10** **8.15** **8.20** **8.25** **8.30** **8.35** **8.40** **8.45** **8.50** **8.55** **9.00** **9.05** **9.10** **9.15** **9.20** **9.25** **9.30** **9.35** **9.40** **9.45** **9.50** **9.55** **10.00** **10.05** **10.10** **10.15** **10.20** **10.25** **10.30** **10.35** **10.40** **10.45** **10.50** **10.55** **11.00** **11.05** **11.10** **11.15** **11.20** **11.25** **11.30** **11.35** **11.40** **11.45** **11.50** **11.55** **12.00** **12.05** **12.10** **12.15** **12.20** **12.25** **12.30** **12.35** **12.40** **12.45** **12.50** **12.55** **1.00** **1.05** **1.10** **1.15** **1.20** **1.25** **1.30** **1.35** **1.40** **1.45** **1.50** **1.55** **2.00** **2.05** **2.10** **2.15** **2.20** **2.25** **2.30** **2.35** **2.40** **2.45** **2.50** **2.55** **3.00** **3.05** **3.10** **3.15** **3.20** **3.25** **3.30** **3.35** **3.40** **3.45** **3.50** **3.55** **4.00** **4.05** **4.10** **4.15** **4.20** **4.25** **4.30** **4.35** **4.40** **4.45** **4.50** **4.55** **5.00** **5.05** **5.10** **5.15** **5**

## RADIO 3

**7.55 Weather and News**  
**Headline**  
**7.00 Handel:** a series featuring the Concert grossi, Op 8, Overture, Tenor: English Chamber under Placido Domingo in B-flat (HWW 557). St James's Baroque Players under Ivor Bolton, with Paul Goodwin, oboe; David Swinson, flute; Op 6 No 7: Vienna Concertus Musici under Nicolaus Harnoncourt

**7.30**  
**7.35** **Mozsaiwale:** Bachmann (Prelude No 24 in B minor); Chopin (Ballade No 4 in F minor); Liszt (Hungarian Concerto-No 3 in C minor)

**7.40 News**  
**7.45 Your Concert Choice:** (1) **Spain:** Mexican Male Philharmonics under Gorka; Reinizen (Variations on the Lambeth Walk); Martin (Jano); Minard (Le-Boudart et le); National Orchestra, France under Garmisch; (2) **Sweden:** Stockholm Small Orchestra; CO under Jorge Maestre; Boldieu (Concerto No 1 in C minor); (3) **USA:** Ensemble under Harach with Claudia Amick, harp; Dexus (A Love Letter); (4) **USA:** Pacific John, tenor; RFO under Eric Fentys; Resplend (Sunc Rhythmic); RFO under Michael Alper (Song)

**7.50 Music Weekly:** Michael Alper assesses the Danish Concert for (1)

**7.55 BBC Concert Choice:** Jiri Starek conducts Musorgsky's Night on a Bare Mountain; Janáček's Zohalyda, Op 17; Smetana's Wallenstein's Camp

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CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Hello! Hello! (c) 6.30 Flight over Spain. Zarazoga (r) 7.00 Growing Plants with Penelope Keith (r) 7.30 The Five O'Clock Weekly 8.00 The Builders 8.30 Children's Island 9.00 Demise

**9.25** Spice. Eastern arts magazine

**10.00** The World of the 1960s

**11.00** Boon! (r) 11.30 The Hendersons (r) 12.00 The Wattons 1.00 Land of the Giants

**2.00** The Beatles of Wimpole Street (1934, b/w) starring Norma Shearer, Fredric March and Charles Laughton. Stolid but strongly accented version of the famous Victorian love story. Directed by Sidney Franklin

**4.00** The Rainbow Vandal. The use of colour on Britain's stamps (r)

**4.25** Southern Comfort. Comedy

**5.25** News summary and weather (r)

**5.30** Art of the Western World

**6.00** 4th Dimension. Science series

**6.30** The Wonder Years. Comedy about growing up in 1960s America

**7.00** Fragile Earth. Arctic Tragedy. The Barabats Sea (r). (Teletext)

**8.00** The Media Show

**8.00** Sinfonia. A profile of the American composer John Adams

**10.00** Film: Semi-Tough (1977) starring Bud Reynolds, Kris Kristofferson and Jill Clayburgh. Free-wheeling comedy about two American footballers and their platonic relationship with the much-married daughter of their boss. Directed by Michael Ritchie

**12.00** Film: Open Gladioli (1977). A young man living with his family in Algeria cannot steel himself to spread his wings or to settle down with a wife. Directed by Merzak

## SATELLITE

**SKY ONE**

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**6.00am** Hour of Power **7.00** Fun Factory  
**11.00am** Hour of Power **12.00** Beyond 2000  
**1.00pm** That's Incredible **2.00** WWF  
Superstars of Wrestling **3.00** The Incredible  
Hulk **4.00** Emergency **5.00** Eight is Enough  
**6.00** Family Ties **7.00** 21 Jump Street **8.00**  
Bill **10.00** Entertainment This Week **11.00**  
Sky World News Tonight **11.30** The Big  
Valley

**SKY NEWS**

**5:30am** The Best of Target **6:30** The Unesco Report **7:30** Our World **8:30** Those Were the Days **9:30** Entertainment This Week Part 2 **10:30** The Unesco Report **11:30** Beyond 2000 **12:30am** 48 Hours **1:30** Those Were the Days **2:30** Roving Report **3:30** Our World **4:30** Beyond 2000 **5:30** Entertainment This Week Part 2 **6:30** Roving Report **7:30** Our World **8:30** Those Were the Days **9:30** 48 Hours **10:30** Roving Report **11:30** Cops **12:30am** Those Were the Days **1:30** 48 Hours **2:30** Entertainment This Week Part 2 **3:30** Those Were the Days **4:30** Cops

**SKY MOVIES**

**From \$8.00/m** The Shopping Channel  
All films will be scrambled  
4.00 A Day After Tomorrow (1983); Mel  
Brook and Anne Bancroft as two Polish  
Jews who need a wartime acting troupe  
4.00 A Chorus Line (1985); Richard  
Attenborough's foray into the musical  
3.50 Projector  
7.00 Big Business (1988); Farce with  
Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin excelling in their  
roles as two sets of identical twins  
5.00 Westside 66  
5.00 Summer Time (1978);  
Michael Cimino's Oscar-winning film  
following three American friends from  
Pittsburgh to Vietnam and back again  
4.00 Too Young The Hero (1965); True  
story about a young man who leads  
way into the U.S. Navy and became a hero

**EUROSPORT**

**5.00am** The Hour of Power **7.00** Fun  
Factory **9.00** BMX **9.30** Trax **10.00**  
International Indoor Football **11.00** US  
Seniors Skins Golf **1.00pm** Rugby League  
**2.00** The Boat Race **3.00** Volvo  
Showjumping Tournament **4.30** Skiing **5.00**  
Horse Box **6.00** Film: The US Masters  
**7.00** Cycling **8.00** Football **10.00** US  
Seniors Skins Golf **12.00** Cycling **10.30**  
Showjumping **11.30** US Golf **12.00** Cycling

## MTV

**6.00** Ray Cokes **10.30** The Big Picture  
**11.00** European Top 20 **12.30** Club MTV  
**1.00** Paul King **5.00** MTV's Greatest  
Hits **6.00** XPO **8.30** Kristiana Becker **9.30**  
New Visions **10.00** Week In Rock **10.30**  
Club MTV **11.00** 90 Allstars

**SCREENSPORT**

**1.30am Motorsport 2.30 US Professional Boxing 4.00 International Football 6.00 Ice Hockey 8.00 US Boxing 9.30 Wide World of Sport Special 11.00 Skiing 11.45 International Football 1.45pm Ice Hockey 3.45 Pro Bowlers' Winter Tour 5.00 Argentinian Football 6.00 Update 6.00 US PGA Golf 8.00 Basketball 9.30 Rugby League 11.00 Ice Hockey.**

## LIFESTYLE

**12.00** Jason of Star Command **12.30**  
The Secret of Isis **1.00pm** Smothers  
Brothers **1.30pm** McKeever & The  
Colonel **2.00** Championship Rodeo **3.00**  
Roller Derby **4.00** African Rainbow **4.25**  
Afternoon Cinema

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, **TV Guide**.

**No need to scream  
about prices like these**

# MEMOREX



**E 120**  
FULL LIFETIME  
GUARANTEE

**HS**  
HIGH  
STANDARD  
VIDEO  
CASSETTE  
2 hours



**E120 Twin Pack (4 hours)** **£2.99**

**dB C90 4 Pack Audio Tapes (6 hours)** **£1.99**



**These offers are available now, only while stocks last, and are limited to 5 packs per person.**

# WOOLWORTHS







for Rothschild

SATURDAY MARCH 31 1990

17

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6460 (+0.0115)  
W German mark  
2.7786 (+0.0060)  
Exchange Index  
87.9 (+0.6)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1768.7 (-12.5)  
FT-SE 100  
2247.9 (-15.1)  
USM (Datastream)  
142.18 (+0.08)

Market report, page 20

Camford  
to review  
contracts

The directors of Camford Engineering have embarked on "an urgent review" of their controversial service contracts after Markheath, which is bidding £63.8 million, won an injunction in the High Court. Markheath drew attention this week to the fact that the contracts allow the directors to walk out with substantial compensation in the event of a predator acquiring a 30 per cent stake. Markheath holds 29.96 per cent.

In the event of a successful bid the cost of meeting the salary element of a compensation package has been estimated at about £2.4 million.

Yesterday, Markheath successfully applied to the High Court for an injunction preventing the Camford board doing exactly that. The board has said that pending its review the directors will not exercise their contractual rights.

STOCK MARKETS

New York  
Dow Jones 2708.91 (-17.79)  
Tokyo  
Nikkei Av'ge 29880.48 (-1045.71)  
Hong Kong  
Hang Seng 2867.98 (-2.54)  
Amsterdam  
CBS Tenex 1184.4 (+0.1)  
Sydney  
All Ordinaries 1935.7 (-11.3)  
Frankfurt  
Frankfurt DAX 1988.55 (+14.88)  
Brussels  
General 6134.86 (+14.54)  
Paris  
CAC 3571.18 (+1.00)  
Zurich  
SIX 5914.0 (+0.4)  
London  
FT-30 1768.7 (-12.5)  
FT-100 2247.9 (-15.1)  
FT-1000 1215.52 (-7.00)  
FT-10000 2747.7 (+2.3)  
FT-100000 55.78 (-1.18)  
FT-1000000 76.65 (+0.2)  
Recent issues  
4pm prices  
Page 18  
Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:  
Bass 84 1/2p (+10p)  
Liberty 170 1/2p (+8p)  
Telford 167 1/2p (+17p)  
Lampo 586 1/2p (+10p)  
Bar Wallace A 305p (+10p)  
Pindragon 132 1/2p (+10p)  
Red Int 415 1/2p (+9p)

FALLS:  
Grand Mar 588p (-10p)  
Liberty 170 1/2p (-10p)  
Thomson Corp 785p (-10p)  
Copson 57 1/2p (-20p)  
Redland 550 1/2p (-10p)  
Wolstenholme Rink 782 1/2p (-12p)  
Allied Lyons 448 1/2p (-10p)  
News Corp 487 1/2p (-10p)  
Securicor A 722 1/2p (-10p)  
Security Services 612 1/2p (-13p)  
Wellcome 704p (-8p)  
Borland 897 1/2p (-5p)  
Electronic Machine 114 1/2p (-11p)  
4pm prices  
Barrington 268 1/2p  
SEAG Volume 453.7m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%  
3-month interbank 15 1/2%  
5-month eligible bill 14 1/4-14 1/2%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 9 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bill 8.62-7.80%  
30-year bond 9 1/2-9 3/8%

CURRENCIES

London New York  
£/\$ 1.6460  
£/DM 2.7786  
£/Sfr 2.0363  
£/Yen 164.60  
£/Pound 1.0000  
£/Euro 1.3663  
£/Austrian 13.7603  
£/Swiss 2.0363  
£/Danish 136.48  
£/Norwegian 136.48  
£/Japanese 164.60  
£/Australian 1.6460  
£/New Zealand 1.6460  
£/South African 1.6460  
£/Portuguese 200.48  
£/Spanish 166.64  
£/Italian 1.3663  
£/Greek 340.75  
£/Irish 0.7875  
£/Belgian 36.36  
£/Dutch 2.2037  
£/Austrian 13.7603  
£/Swiss 2.0363  
£/Danish 136.48  
£/Norwegian 136.48  
£/Japanese 164.60  
£/Australian 1.6460  
£/New Zealand 1.6460  
£/South African 1.6460  
£/Portuguese 200.48  
£/Spanish 166.64  
£/Italian 1.3663  
£/Greek 340.75  
£/Irish 0.7875  
£/Belgian 36.36  
£/Dutch 2.2037

GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$372.20 pm \$368.50  
Close \$368.50-370.00 (\$224.50)  
225.00  
New York  
Comex \$368.50-370.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) - \$18.30 bid (\$18.20)  
 \* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	1.6460	Bank	1.6460
Belgium	36.36	Bank	36.36
Canada	1.3663	Bank	1.3663
Denmark	136.48	Bank	136.48
France	6.5596	Bank	6.5596
Germany	2.0363	Bank	2.0363
Greece	340.75	Bank	340.75
Hong Kong	7.7556	Bank	7.7556
India	166.64	Bank	166.64
Italy	1.3663	Bank	1.3663
Japan	164.60	Bank	164.60
Netherlands	2.2037	Bank	2.2037
Norway	136.48	Bank	136.48
Portugal	200.48	Bank	200.48
Spain	166.64	Bank	166.64
Sweden	6.5596	Bank	6.5596
Switzerland	2.0363	Bank	2.0363
Taiwan	166.64	Bank	166.64
USA	1.6460	Bank	1.6460
Yugoslavia	136.48	Bank	136.48

Notes for special commission bank  
Note only as issued by Bank of  
England. All rates apply to  
1 month's duration.

Percent Points Index: 1989.7 (January)

Deadlock over 'transplant' Japanese cars

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

JAPAN and the European Community have agreed to explore how far and how quickly the EC should open up its market to Japanese car exports after 1992. But Tokyo has yet to accept fully an EC plan for a transitional period during which exports would be monitored before being allowed full access.

EC diplomatic sources said that Mr Frans Andriessen, the EC's External Trade Relations Commissioner, and Mr Kabin Matsuo,

Japan's Trade and Industry Minister, agreed last night to begin exploratory talks on how to achieve a liberalized car market after 1992. Although Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry officials, who feel they hold the best cards, are unwilling to concede so easily in the game that they will accept an interim period of quotas, industry sources believe Japan is willing voluntarily to restrain its exports, as it does to the US.

But the two sides still seem deadlocked over the prickly issue of whether cars made in Japanese

factories in the EC - so-called "transplants" - should be included in any monitoring.

Mr Andriessen thinks they should, Japan - and some EC members, like Britain, whose exports of transplants to EC neighbours would suffer - thinks they should not.

Mr Andriessen, who returns to Europe today after two days of talks with Japanese ministers, said that EC members' national restrictions on imports must disappear with the arrival of the single market. They will, anyway, become

unenforceable under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade after January 1, 1993.

But he added that an unspecified transitional period was needed to allow Europe to complete the modernization of its car industry - the EC's biggest employer - to cope with Japanese competition. Japanese cars have captured more than 30 per cent of the market in EC countries with no quota restrictions, compared with an overall share of 9.2 per cent of the EC market in 1988.

"This period must be limited

and clearly defined. To be meaningful it has to take into account transplants in the Community," the Commissioner said.

But while Japan appears to be willing to compromise, Mr Andriessen went with no mandate to negotiate and arrives home knowing that further progress could be thwarted by in-fighting within the EC about how best to proceed.

He will brief EC ministers in Luxembourg on Monday on his talks. But the Commission has not been expecting much, apart from a

long battle. Mr Andriessen knows that any concessions he makes will leave him at the mercy of EC hardliners like France, which claim that the survival of the EC's car industry is at stake and which want quotas to be maintained for a transition period of up to 12 years. Mme Edith Cresson, the French Minister for European Affairs, has even given warning that France, Italy and Spain will defy the single market project and close their borders to "excessive" Japanese imports if the agreement is not to their liking.

Pearson buys Alton Towers

By Jeremy Andrews

PEARSON, the publishing, investment banking, and oil services group, has paid £60 million for Alton Towers, the Midlands theme park.

Talks between Mr John Broome, the owner of Alton Towers, and Pearson have been held since late last year.

Lord Blakenham, Pearson chairman, said: "We reckon the assets are worth more than £60 million. Alton has 200 acres of land with outline planning permission surplus to the main business. We have always liked the idea of owning Alton Towers, but in the past it has not been available."

In the year to last November, Alton Towers had operating profits of £3 million before exceptional items on turnover of £20 million, according to unaudited accounts.

Pearson also revealed pre-tax profits up 26 per cent to £251 million in the year to December - about £20 million higher than expected. Several acquisitions and disposals affected the figures, but the company said the underlying growth in trading profits was 15 per cent if their impact was excluded.

The surprise results boosted the shares by 4p to 69 1/2p. They fell initially because of the £72 million ordinary share placing to help pay for the Alton purchase and news that Pearson wanted the power to issue \$500 million of variable rate preference shares.

Analysts had not allowed for the 37 per cent rise to £44.7 in trading profits from Laszards, the merchant bank, nor the near doubling from £14.8 million to £27 million from its US oil services activities. The £300,000 fall to £11.5 million from entertainment was because of the impact of the warm summer and transport strikes on Madame Tussauds, and had been expected.

However, the 8 per cent rise to £58.9 million from newspapers and magazines was less



Surprising the market with 26% profits rise, Frank Barlow, managing director (left) and Lord Blakenham in the Savoy Gardens yesterday

than expected. A £4 million fall in trading profits in the second half was partly due to redundancy costs at the Northern Echo.

Trading profits from book publishing rose £3 million to £60.7 million, though the comparison is affected by the £283 million acquisition of the US educational publisher, Addison-Wesley, in 1988. Because of this purchase, Pearson's sales in North America exceeded those in Britain for the first time.

The contribution from Elsevier, the Dutch publisher where Pearson holds 22 per cent, rose from £3.2 million to £2.6 million. However, Lord Blakenham said he no longer

believed a full merger was likely as the rise in Elsevier's share price and the fall in sterling meant it would be difficult without dilution for Pearson's shareholders.

There was an extraordinary gain of £104 million after tax, of which £52 million came from the sale of its stake in Chateau Latour to Allied Lyons and £28 million from the disposal of Reuters shares. Property contributed £23.1 million, just less than in 1988.

A four-point fall in the tax charge to 30 per cent helped earnings per share rise by a fifth to 67p. The final dividend rises by 2p to 12.5p, making 21.5p, up 19 per cent.

New hope for power station

By Matthew Rood

The sale of Alton Towers leaves Mr John Broome, the park's former owner and continuing chairman, in far better shape to further his ambitious plans for Battersea power station.

Work on the site stopped a year ago, it had been believed under pressure from Security Pacific, Mr Broome's banker, which had advanced £55 million of initial finance towards Mr Broome's £245 million dream to turn the London landmark into a state-of-the-art

leisure and entertainment complex.

But yesterday Mr Broome said it was he who called a halt to construction. "I stopped the scheme in February last year, well before we had used up all the available funds."

Mr Broome said work stopped when it became clear that a further £41 million would be needed to be spent on stabilizing and underpinning the power station.

By then Mr Broome, who acquired the site for £1.5 million in 1987, says he had spent

£48 million on the building. Mr Broome now estimates that £100 million will have to be spent on the power station, at present little more than a shell, before work can begin on his leisure project, now budgeted to cost £229 million.

However, work on the site is not expected to start before the summer, by when Mr Broome hopes he will have received planning permission for a substantial commercial development on 20 acres of land adjacent to the power station.

Distilleries urging kinder Korean tax

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

SCOTCH whisky makers enter three days of talks in Seoul next week to try to persuade the Korean government to ease a taxation regime that has pushed the price of a bottle of Scotch there to at least £30.

Because of different tax treatment, the local spirit, soju, sells for about £1 a bottle and has a dominating 97 per cent of the spirits market in Korea, where drinkers mostly prefer beer and spirits.

Imported whiskies have only 1 per cent of the Korean market, in which drinkers are the biggest consumers of spirits in the world after the Russians.

Koreans have already proved to have a taste for Scotch, despite the price structure.

The value of Scotch sales to Korea rose 51 per cent last year compared with the previous year.

One factor behind the rise in sales was that in mid-year the Korean authorities dropped quota restrictions that had

been applied to imported spirits.

The Scotch makers believe that Korea, if the penal tax regime were modified, could be almost as big a market for Scotch as Japan, which is the third-largest national market for Scotch now that the Japanese have eased their own taxation barriers to imported spirits.

Last year, Scotch sales to Japan rose by 27 per cent in volume and value was up 72 per cent.

The Seoul talks will be led by Mr Bill Bewsher, director general of the Scotch Whisky Association.

Mr Bewsher said: "There is absolutely no reason why whisky should be singled out like this for such penal and blatant discrimination."

What has caused particular annoyance to the whisky makers is that imported brandy, although heavily taxed by the Koreans, does not carry as heavy a tax burden as whisky does.

Dutch pay £154m for Robert Horne

By Melinda Wittstock

THE British paper merchant, Robert Horne, whose shares were suspended at 435p on Wednesday pending news of a bid, has accepted a £154.1 million offer from Buhrmann-Tetterode, the leading Dutch paper wholesaler and office equipment supplier.

Shareholders are being offered 490p cash for ordinary shares and 452p cash for Class A shares - valuing Robert Horne at an historic exit multiple of 16 times earnings.

Robert Horne shares - 51.3 per cent owned by the Horne family - stood at 245p and the "A" shares at 207p on January 9, just before Buhrmann-Tetterode said it had started talks about a possible takeover.

Buhrmann-Tetterode, quoted in London and Amsterdam, has received acceptances in respect of 61.2 per cent of Robert Horne's voting stock and 33.5 per cent of its non-voting shares from Kenneth Horne Family Holdings Ltd and Robert Horne directors.

The combined business will

rank as one of the largest paper merchants in Europe, with a combined market share of 8 per cent. Robert Horne will retain its management, effectively continuing as an independent company, said Mr Robert van Oort, chairman of Buhrmann-Tetterode.

Mr Kenneth Berrill, the chairman of Robert Horne, said the deal would allow his company to continue to expand in the important European market.

Robert Horne shareholders are also being offered a full loan note alternative and a partial Buhrmann-Tetterode share alternative, which, if fully subscribed, would mean an 8 per cent rise in Buhrmann-Tetterode's capital.

Buhrmann-Tetterode saw a 33 per cent rise in 1989 pre-tax profits to Fl 219.2 million (£70 million) on sales up 13 per cent to Fl 5.1 billion.

Shares in Robert Horne, which resumed trading after the announcement, climbed 40p to 475p.

Japanese shares in nosedive

From Our Correspondent Tokyo

SHARES in Tokyo ended the Japanese financial year with an unexpected dive as the Nikkei stock index lost more than 1,000 points, or more than 3 per cent of the stock market's value.

When a widely-predicted end-of-year rally failed to materialize, jittery investors again took their cue from the weakening yen and tumbling bond prices and avoided shares.

Mr Takeshi Yamamoto, head of research at Barclays de Zoete Wedd in Tokyo, said: "This was the last trading day of the fiscal year, so all institutional investors' portfolios are evaluated at today's prices. That's why many brokers were expecting the market to rise."

The Nikkei closed 1,045.71 points lower at 29,980.45, dashing hopes that the stock market might be building a base above the psychological 30,000 level. Index-linked selling and thin trading amplified the fall, and the market lost 3.37 per cent of its value.

The yen's failure to hold gains made on Thursday undermined confidence by increasing the likelihood of another rise in Japanese interest rates to underpin it. The dollar, benefiting from book-squaring by Japanese banks ahead of the end of the fiscal year on March 31, climbed one yen to close at 157.65 yen.

"The market seems to lack confidence and energy," said Mr Yamamoto. "But Monday is the first trading day of the new fiscal year. Some institutions might now be keen to look for bargains."

However, optimism is scarce. Mr Lawrence Prager, senior analyst at Nikko Securities, the Japanese stockbroker, said that the Nikkei's retreat below 30,000 would hurt sentiment. Some analysts say it could wilt to 28,000 in the next three weeks.

Market, page 20

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# £150m Lutyens House deal boosts Greycoat

By Matthew Bond

SHARES in Greycoat, the property developer, rose 12p to 413p on news that the company had successfully refinanced Lutyens House, its 192,000 sq ft City development. BP, the oil company, will pay about £55 a sq ft rent and move in this year.

Greycoat has teamed up with Salomon Brothers International to issue £150 million of "deep discount stepped coupon first mortgage notes". The issue — the largest securitized development finance ever issued in Britain — has been bought by international investors, mostly from Japan.

Lutyens House has been

valued at £170 million. At maturity the bond issue is worth 88 per cent thereof.

Traditional mortgage finance would only have been available up to about 65 per cent of value and would have required servicing at full market rates, now approaching 16 per cent. Greycoat's cost of borrowing under this issue — which carries an initial coupon of 6.25 per cent — is 12.382 per cent.

The issue, reflecting the deep discount of the notes, has raised £96.4 million for Greycoat. But there is an additional £15.8 million extraordinary profit arising from

interest swap deals agreed by Mr Richard Guinand, the finance director, last summer.

The total proceeds of the issue are therefore £112.2 million, most of which will be used to repay Greycoat's construction finance of about £92 million.

Mr Guinand indicated that the refinancing package was a perfect illustration of how a modern building let to a top tenant could be exploited as cash flow.

The £9.75 million that BP and National Westminster pay in rent each year will cover the coupon on the notes. For the first six years —

including the first rent review on the building — the coupon is 6.25 per cent.

For the second half of its 12-year life, the coupon on the bond will be 12.5 per cent. The bond's lifespan has been constructed to cover two rent reviews — every five years on commercial property leases.

Because BP's rent matches the coupon on the notes, Lutyens House will have no impact on Greycoat's profit and loss account. But the company's balance sheet — already £73.6 million better off after the refinancing — will benefit from any future increases in the building's value.

## Surprise bid for Early's

A SURPRISE £13.2 million bid has been launched by Grovewood Securities for Early's of Witney, the asset-rich Oxfordshire blanket maker.

Claythorpe, Early's 29.9 per cent shareholder says it will accept the Grovewood bid, unless a higher bid appears.

Part of the offer is to be financed by a placing of 6 million new shares, raising £10.2 million before expenses. Grovewood currently has 19.5 per cent of Early, and with Claythorpe's acceptance controls 49.4 per cent.

## Meyer purchase

Meyer International, the builders' and timber merchants, is acquiring Klockner & Co's builders' merchant subsidiary, a sector leader in West Germany, for an undisclosed sum. The business, which has 23 branches, had a turnover of about £100 million in the year to end-December.

## Spurs' million

Better home attendances lifted Tottenham Hotspur, the quoted football club, to pre-tax profits of £1.12 million (£275,000) in the six months to end-November. Turnover rose 10 per cent to £11.3 million and earnings to 9.7p (2.5p). The interim dividend is held at 1p.

## Faupel suffers

Faupel Trading, importer of textiles from China, expects profits to fall by about £500,000 to £1 million, after the Tiananmen Square massacre caused production difficulties. The company has also been hit by flood damage at a main warehouse. The shares lost 14p to 58p on USM.

## Guidehouse fall

Guidehouse Group, the financial services company, saw 1989 pre-tax profits fall 69 per cent to £501,000, after £880,000 in the first half. A final dividend of 0.2p, makes 0.6p (1.4p). This was despite a 26 per cent rise in turnover to £13.4 million.

## ATA slips

Pre-tax profits at ATA Selection, the employment slipped £95,000 to £849,000 in 1989 on turnover of £6.3 million (£5.4 million). A final dividend of 1.5p makes 2.5p (2.14p) on earnings of 4.38p (2.23p).

## Goal surge

Goal Petroleum raised pre-tax profits to £5.21 million (£443,000) for the year ended December. Net profit at £2.42 million compared with £1.59 million, and net earnings rose from 1.41p to 1.82p. The dividend is held at 1p.

## Kingspan ahead

Kingspan, the building materials group, improved pre-tax profits 32 per cent to £2.8 million (£2.69 million) on turnover of £40.5 million (£38.8 million). The dividend is 1r1.33p (1r1.42p) on earnings of 1r10.07p (1r8.43p).

## Sale lifts Fairhaven to \$7m



Well-placed: chairman Jim Davidson announces Fairhaven's profit rise yesterday

FAIRHAVEN International, the oil, gas and petrochemical construction industries, revealed \$7.32 million pre-tax profits in the year to end-December, against \$2.17 million for the previous 11 months (Philip Pangalos writes).

Profits included an excep-

tional gain of \$4 million from the disposal of the group's interest in one of its two tankers. Pre-tax profits before the exceptional item advanced by 52.7 per cent to \$3.32 million.

Earnings per share jump from 0.8 cents to 2.45 cents, and there is a first-ever divi-

dend of 0.1 cent. Turnover more than doubled, up from \$83.2 million to \$175.1 million.

Mr James Davidson, the chairman, said the group is well-positioned in the offshore construction industry and is also expanding in onshore construction.

## Blackwood Hodge director resigns

By Gillian Bowditch

THE mining equipment company, Blackwood Hodge, has lost Mr Kenneth Scobie, its group managing director.

Mr Scobie resigned and left the company on Thursday. No explanation was given for his departure and the company refuses to say whether he will receive any compensation.

A Blackwood spokesman was not connected with the results for 1989, which show a £2.2 million loss in Britain.

Profits as a whole are up on last year due to a good performance in other regions and a boost from property profits. Pre-tax profits last year rose from £15.5 million to £18.3 million on sales up from £413 million to £497 million.

Earnings per share were static at 7.4p and the total dividend for the year is up from 1.5p to 1.65p.

The results include a £3.8

million profit from property, and profits benefited by £1.5 million from a favourable exchange rate.

The British division made an operating loss of £2.2 million against a profit of £3.2 million.

Mr Roger Finnington, the chairman of Blackwood Hodge, said overseas earnings were reduced last year by a "very poor performance from both domestic and export UK activities."

"In the latter part of 1989, the unacceptable performance of the domestic and export activities of our main British business became increasingly apparent and changes were made in our senior management and in our method of operation," he said.

The group expects the British division to return to profit this year.

The shares were unchanged at 36p.

## Banks' credit card deal

BARCLAYS Bank has sold its credit card payment business in Scotland to the Bank of Scotland for an undisclosed sum.

The move, the latest upheaval in the credit card industry, will give Bank of Scotland the largest such business north of the border, with 11,000 retailers operating in

18,000 outlets, and a market share approaching 50 per cent.

Barclays Merchant Services will continue the processing of Visa and Mastercard payments under contract at Northampton. Retailers' accounts, however, will from Monday be dealt with at the Bank of Scotland's card services centre in Dunfermline.

## NewsCorp to sell magazine

By Colin Campbell

THE NEWS Corporation, the world-wide media empire where Mr Rupert Murdoch is the chief executive, expects to receive at least \$400 million from the agreed sale of *Star Magazine* to GP Group, publisher of *The National Enquirer* and *Weekly World News*.

NewsCorp will receive half the proceeds in cash and the rest in preferred stock. *Star Magazine*, *The National Enquirer* and *Weekly World News* are mass market, general interest weekly periodicals with a broad range of content, from personality and human interest stories to medical articles.

The sale, which is expected to be completed before June 30, is subject to conditions that include governmental waivers or approvals.

*Star Magazine* was launched in 1974 and is published in Tarrytown, New York, by News America Publishing Inc, a subsidiary of NewsCorp.

GP plans to maintain the magazine's editorial independence and to continue to publish it at its current location.

Mr Martin Singerman, the president of News America, said: "We are confident that *Star Magazine* will continue to prosper in their good hands."

NewsCorp shares lost 10p to 498p.

## Winning scenario for a general election in the autumn of 1991



KENNETH FLEET

THE poll tax is about to become a reality in England and Wales, but that is not all. Today is voting day for the 12 area electricity boards in England and Wales, when they become distribution companies in preparation for privatization in November. In the Irish Republic, finance ministers of the 12 EC countries are spending the weekend talking about the next steps toward economic and monetary union. The subject of the UK joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System is bound to come up.

Together, electricity privatization and the ERM could have as much, if not more, influence on the outcome of the next general election than the dreaded poll tax. The critical election factor is the level of interest rates in general and mortgage rates in particular. John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, forecasts materially lower interest rates from the beginning of next year as inflation falls. Before the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee on Wednesday, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, seemed more cautious on both counts. High interest

rates would continue because this is "an era of higher interest rates." Inflation is in the system, the demand for capital is heavy and savings are low.

But "high", and indeed "low", interest rates are relative and at least the Governor thinks ours are high enough unless sterling went through the floor when they would have to go up. And as he came close to saying, if only the Government and its supporters would put their own house in order, stop squabbling and stop undermining the pound's greatest asset (the Prime Minister), the risk of a run on the pound would diminish sharply.

Where Chancellor and Governor, and Nigel Lawson, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Sir Leon Brittan, are out of step with the Prime Minister is over the date of joining the ERM. In my judgement, John Major would be taking a serious

risk in reducing interest rates according to his timetable unless the UK is in the ERM before the year-end. If it is correct that the Prime Minister has agreed to let her Chancellor have the final say on the date, then we should be in the new year and contemplating a general election in the autumn of 1991 — an election the Government would have a reviving chance of winning. The rate of inflation (forecast at "slightly above" 7 per cent) would not be down to anything like the West German level (the ideal position from which to join the ERM), but provided it was moving down and we were in the ERM, the pound might not come under attack. Interest rates would then start to fall, taking mortgage rates down with them.

In the City's view, this is the only possible election-winning scenario the Government can construct in the time it has left. The area boards would have been sold off in November with perks (discounts on electricity bills) and at attractive prices. The second Major Budget would come in March, 1991, followed by the privatization of National Power and PowerGen.

If nothing else I hope I have taken your mind off the poll tax!

## The new breed of high street retailer

Mr Thatcher has not had the best of luck with her tycoons. As stars have fallen out of the sky, they have chipped the gilt of the Enterprise Culture.

The fallen stars may have done no more than swallow their own publicity, or win the *Guardian's* Young Businessman of the Year award. They enliven the scene, provide ample material for the media and leave a legacy of innovation and achievement.

Appropriately enough, given the Prime Minister's own background, the Eighties were a profitable decade for high-profile builders of retail empires — Sir Ralph Halpern (Burton), Sir Phil Harris (Harris Queensway), Stanley Kaim (Dixons), Sir Terence Conran (Storehouse), James Gulliver (Argyll), George Davies (Next). But for all of them, the going became much harder toward the end of the Eighties. Only two of the top 10 retailers, measured by growth in earnings per share between 1986/87 and 1989/90, are entrepreneurially-driven: Ransomes in first place and Burton in ninth.

Retailing is in transition from the high consumer spending years of the eighties, but to what? A return to brimful tills when the Government sorts the economy out? Not according to Geoffrey Mulcahy, chairman and chief executive of Kingfisher (Woolworth),

Comet, B&Q, Superdrug, Chartwell Land). In his view, the Eighties were exceptional.

"The Eighties inspired a great deal of investment in retail space and refurbishment. Costs were built into the system then and more costs — higher rents, higher wages, the new business rate — are being added now. There is too much retail capacity. At the same time, customers are demanding more than retail concepts. They want better value for money. Success in the Nineties will depend on the value stores are able to offer, coupled with an efficient operation that can deliver goods and services at the lowest cost. Retail groups will be judged, not least in the City, by the same criteria already applied to many businesses outside the retail sector."

Mulcahy and a small team have led Kingfisher since Paternoster Stores paid £310 million for FW Woolworth in November, 1982. Kingfisher is second to Ransomes in the table I referred to earlier.

Mulcahy is not in the whiz-kid mould and he would not permit himself to be carried away by his own public relations. His manner is quiet and he smiles more than in the early days and at the time of Dixons' 1986 bid for the company.

His basic strategy is to establish leading positions in key markets. The group has a 12 per cent market share of DIY business, 9 per cent of electricals, 6 per

cent of confectionery sales, 3.5 per cent of children's wear, 16 per cent of toiletries and 15 per cent of "entertainment." The £460 million bid for Dixons before the MMC is unlikely to be approved but the logic is simple: to add to market share in electricals. "We are not acquisition-driven," Mulcahy says. "If this one fails, it would leave management free to take another company on board. But we don't have to. There is plenty of scope to grow our market shares, albeit more slowly, without taking over other companies."

Woolworths is still "a great brand name, part of our heritage which people remember fondly." It has had to undergo a dramatic change in customer profile in order to survive. Mulcahy admits to finding the process of changing a company fascinating. "The really exciting thing about the business is to look back, note what you have accomplished and realize that there are more opportunities now than there were a year ago. To take them requires conviction, tempered with a degree of humility. Success comes not from a belief in your own infallibility but actually from working harder."

The immediate question in the wake of Kingfisher's excellent figures is "What can they do for an encore, especially if the Dixons bid falls through?" I suspect more of the same. On a price/earnings ratio of 10, the stock must be one to hold.

## 1989 - a remarkable year

	1989	1988	% change
Turnover £m	1162.3	761.0	+53
Profit before tax £m	161.4	112.2	+44
Earnings per share (fully diluted) p	43.2	37.1	+16
Dividend per share (net) p	13.0	9.5	+37
Shareholders' funds £m	827.0	386.2	+114

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### FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT...

"The year was, by any standards, a remarkable and an appropriate conclusion to a decade in which the Group achieved an unbroken record of profitable growth and success. 1990 has started well; the Board is confident that it will be the beginning of an exciting second decade of growth for the Group, and that the strategy we develop during the 1990s will be as successful as that implemented during the 1980s."

Asif Nadir Chairman

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INTERNATIONAL PLC

## Banker tells of action over indemnity

SIR Jack Lyons, the financier, asked an Austrian bank to cover up an indemnity paid after its investment in Guinness, during the bid for Distillers, to "avoid problems" in a Government inquiry. It was alleged in Southwark Crown Court yesterday.

The Zentralparkasse und Kommerzbank Wien was paid £254,000 for losses suffered when the Guinness share price fell after the £2.7 billion takeover of the Scottish whisky group in 1986.

But the bank, which had invoiced Guinness for the cash, said such documents were "out of the question."

Dr Horst Tiefenthaler, the bank's London representative, told the court of Sir Jack's request: "For the first time I became a bit suspicious and panicky because it was a bit unusual."

He said Sir Jack explained that the Department of Trade investigators could possibly want to interview them both about the share transaction.

And, he said, since an invoice to Guinness had been copied from Sir

Jack's own handwritten suggestion for "consultancy fees" it was obvious "it should be substantiated by some documentation."

Dr Tiefenthaler said he expressed his concern to his superiors in Vienna and was told the request was "out of the question."

Dr Tiefenthaler said Sir Jack always mentioned "we will cover you" and he took this to mean J Lyons Chamberlayne, or Bain, the management consultant, with which he associated Sir Jack.

He told of his surprise at having to invoice the company for "consultancy fees" to collect an indemnity for ZKB's losses.

Dr Tiefenthaler said on June 23, 1986, he telephoned Sir Jack to tell him of the shortfall after the bank sold its Guinness shares.

"I asked him how do we get the money back and Sir Jack said 'leave it to me'."

At a lunch the next day the financier handed him a handwritten invoice, on the bank's stationery, to type out and send to Guinness. "It was addressed to

Guinness PLC and said 'to consultancy fees regarding European acquisitions,'" he said. The banker said he assumed it was in Sir Jack's handwriting. But he said it was not what he was expecting.

Dr Tiefenthaler said when the DTI inquiry was announced Sir Jack assured him there was nothing to worry about. It was aimed at Ivan Boscky, a Wall Street arbitrator and a Guinness supporter.

On December 23, Sir Jack "in a subtle and very nice way" said "whether we could not put in writing the things we had discussed over all those months."

It is alleged an illegal share support operation was mounted to win the Distillers bid with illicit indemnities and success fees being paid to supporters.

Sir Jack, aged 74; Mr Ernest Saunders, aged 54, the former Guinness chairman; Mr Gerald Ronson, aged 50, Heron Corporation chairman; and Mr Anthony Parnes, aged 44, stockbroker, variously deny 24 counts on the indictment including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. The trial continues.

### The Guinness trial



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**\$5 for March**

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# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Div
1	Decca Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	
2	United Newspapers (m)	Newspapers, Pub	
3	Tibet & Britain	Transport	
4	Almery National (m)	Banking, Finance	
5	Barrow Food	Industrials E&C	
6	Colony	Building, Roads	
7	Arlec	Electronics	
8	Bulworth	Industrials A-D	
9	IMI (m)	Industrials E&C	
10	EMC (m)	Industrials S-Z	
11	Seamless	Industrials S-Z	
12	Advent	Industrials A-D	
13	Agencia Computers	Electronics	
14	Beaufort	Industrials A-D	
15	PS Coats	Textiles	
16	Prentice	Electronics	
17	Wain	Property	
18	T & N (m)	Industrials S-Z	
19	Polly Peck (m)	Food	
20	Schools (m)	Electronics	
21	Brown & Gold	Banking, Finance	
22	Shelton Ltd	Industrials S-Z	
23	Milner Wine Co	Dairy, Stores	
24	Land (m)	Property	
25	Meca	Leisure	
26	Enterprise (m)	Oil, Gas	
27	Ferranti (m)	Electronics	
28	Bank Chart (m)	Banking, Finance	
29	Whitford W (m)	Banking, Finance	
30	Charles Int	Industrials A-D	
31	Body Shop	Dairy, Stores	
32	Clanway	Banking, Finance	
33	Trusthouse Pl (m)	Hotels, Caterers	
34	Pearson (m)	Newspapers, Pub	
35	Rothmans	Property	
36	Amstrad (m)	Electronics	
37	Rechem	Industrials L-R	
38	Dorman	Industrials A-D	
39	Cham Group	Transport	
40	Lloyd Thompson	Insurance	
41	Skidmore J (m)	Food	
42	Elcom	Electronics	
43	Blackley	Building, Roads	
44	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was shared by five people yesterday. The winners were Mrs Mary Rodden of Putney, London SW15; Mr Richard Williams of Bath, Avon; Mr Norman Bellwood of South Croydon, Surrey; Mr Stephen Harris of Croydon, Surrey and Miss Janet Bailey of Formby, Merseyside.

### BRITISH FUNDS

Fund	Price	Change
...	...	...

### SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### UNDATED

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### UNDATED

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

### BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change
...	...	...

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Equities steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 26. Dealings end April 6. Contango day April 9. Settlement day April 17.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (m) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(COLUMNS: PAGE 25)

No.	Company	Price	Change
...	...	...	...

### BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	Change
...	...	...	...

### BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Change
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No.	Company	Price	Change
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No.	Company	Price	Change
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No.	Company	Price	Change
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### FINANCE, LAND

No.	Company	Price	Change
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### FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No.	Company	Price	Change
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### FOODS

No.	Company	Price	Change
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No.	Company	Price	Change
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### HOTELS, CATERERS

No.	Company	Price	Change
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### INDUSTRIALS A-D

No.	Company	Price	Change
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# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited  
WEEKLY DIVIDEND  
£4,000  
Claims required for +204 points  
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	Price	Change
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© Times Newspapers Limited  
WEEKLY DIVIDEND  
£4,000  
Claims required for +204 points  
Claimants should ring 0254-53272



# Riv Sta

**The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading**

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 87.9 (day's range 87-87.9).				OTHER STERLING RATES	
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					
Market rates for March 30					
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
New York	1.6395-1.6448	1.6455-1.6465	0.82-0.86%	0.52-0.57%	Argentina austral
Mexico	1.8112-1.8228	1.8250-1.8268	0.26-0.29%	0.84-0.88%	Australia dollar
Canada	0.8122-0.8148	0.8138-0.8148	0.16-0.17%	0.50-0.54%	Bahrain dollar
France	57.45-57.54	57.54-57.64	5-21pts	9-10pts	Bahamian dollar
Germany	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Belize dollar
Greece	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Bolivia boliviano
Hong Kong	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Brazil cruzeiro
India rupee	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Bulgarian lev
Japan yen	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Cameroon franc
Kenya shilling	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Canada dollar
Libya dinar	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Chad franc
Malaysia ringgit	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Czech koruna
Netherlands guilder	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Danish krone
New Zealand dollar	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Deutsche mark
Norway kroner	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Egyptian pound
Peru sol	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	French franc
Portugal escudo	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Guatemalan quetzal
Spain peseta	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Haitian gourde
Sweden krona	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Honduran lempira
Switzerland franc	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Hungarian forint
Taiwan dollar	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Indian rupee
Thailand baht	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Indonesian rupiah
Turkey lira	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Israeli sheqel
U.S. dollar	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Italian lira
Yugoslavia dinar	16.871-16.877	16.886-16.897	5-21pts	9-9 1/2pts	Japanese yen

Percent = 1 pt. Discount = 2 pts.

\*Lloyds Bank Rates, quoted by  
Eutel and Barclays Bank GTS

### THIRD MARKET

DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
Ireland	1.5735-1.5750	Denmark	6.4635-6.4655
Singapore	1.8945-1.8955	W Germany	1.9915-1.9975
Malaysia	2.2725-2.2735	Switzerland	1.9625-1.9635
Thailand	1.3215-1.3271	Netherlands	1.9145-1.9155
Canada	1.1705-1.1715	France	157.50-157.200
Japan	6.1195-6.1245	Japan	157.50-156.00
Hong Kong	6.5270-6.5290		
		Italy	1248.0-1249.5
		Belgium (Com)	35.02-35.07
		Hong Kong	7.8090-7.8097
		Spain	108.70-108.95
		Australia	11.93-11.95

Rates supplied by Barclay Bank GTS and Exel.

## MONEY MARKETS

## MONEY MARKETS

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**BULLION:**

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## UDON FINANCIAL FLU

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Previous open interest 58757

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Vol 10022	Copper Gas A	1832.0-1833.0
AMT Futures	Lead	500.00-502.00
Nov 054-052	Zinc Spec H*	1600.0-1605.0

Aug 194-195	Aug 195-200	Aug 201-205	Aug 206-210	Aug 211-215	Aug 216-220
Aug 221-225	Aug 226-230	Aug 231-235	Aug 236-240	Aug 241-245	Aug 246-250
Aug 251-255	Aug 256-260	Aug 261-265	Aug 266-270	Aug 271-275	Aug 276-280
Aug 281-285	Aug 286-290	Aug 291-295	Aug 296-300	Aug 301-305	Aug 306-310
Aug 311-315	Aug 316-320	Aug 321-325	Aug 326-330	Aug 331-335	Aug 336-340
Aug 341-345	Aug 346-350	Aug 351-355	Aug 356-360	Aug 361-365	Aug 366-370
Aug 371-375	Aug 376-380	Aug 381-385	Aug 386-390	Aug 391-395	Aug 396-400
Aug 401-405	Aug 406-410	Aug 411-415	Aug 416-420	Aug 421-425	Aug 426-430
Aug 431-435	Aug 436-440	Aug 441-445	Aug 446-450	Aug 451-455	Aug 456-460
Aug 461-465	Aug 466-470	Aug 471-475	Aug 476-480	Aug 481-485	Aug 486-490
Aug 491-495	Aug 496-500	Aug 501-505	Aug 506-510	Aug 511-515	Aug 516-520
Aug 521-525	Aug 526-530	Aug 531-535	Aug 536-540	Aug 541-545	Aug 546-550
Aug 551-555	Aug 556-560	Aug 561-565	Aug 566-570	Aug 571-575	Aug 576-580
Aug 581-585	Aug 586-590	Aug 591-595	Aug 596-600	Aug 601-605	Aug 606-610
Aug 611-615	Aug 616-620	Aug 621-625	Aug 626-630	Aug 631-635	Aug 636-640
Aug 641-645	Aug 646-650	Aug 651-655	Aug 656-660	Aug 661-665	Aug 666-670
Aug 671-675	Aug 676-680	Aug 681-685	Aug 686-690	Aug 691-695	Aug 696-700
Aug 701-705	Aug 706-710	Aug 711-715	Aug 716-720	Aug 721-725	Aug 726-730
Aug 731-735	Aug 736-740	Aug 741-745	Aug 746-750	Aug 751-755	Aug 756-760
Aug 761-765	Aug 766-770	Aug 771-775	Aug 776-780	Aug 781-785	Aug 786-790
Aug 791-795	Aug 796-800	Aug 801-805	Aug 806-810	Aug 811-815	Aug 816-820
Aug 821-825	Aug 826-830	Aug 831-835	Aug 836-840	Aug 841-845	Aug 846-850
Aug 851-855	Aug 856-860	Aug 861-865	Aug 866-870	Aug 871-875	Aug 876-880
Aug 881-885	Aug 886-890	Aug 891-895	Aug 896-900	Aug 901-905	Aug 906-910
Aug 911-915	Aug 916-920	Aug 921-925	Aug 926-930	Aug 931-935	Aug 936-940
Aug 941-945	Aug 946-950	Aug 951-955	Aug 956-960	Aug 961-965	Aug 966-970
Aug 971-975	Aug 976-980	Aug 981-985	Aug 986-990	Aug 991-995	Aug 996-1000
Aug 1001-1005	Aug 1006-1010	Aug 1011-1015	Aug 1016-1020	Aug 1021-1025	Aug 1026-1030
Aug 1031-1035	Aug 1036-1040	Aug 1041-1045	Aug 1046-1050	Aug 1051-1055	Aug 1056-1060
Aug 1061-1065	Aug 1066-1070	Aug 1071-1075	Aug 1076-1080	Aug 1081-1085	Aug 1086-1090
Aug 1091-1095	Aug 1096-1100	Aug 1101-1105	Aug 1106-1110	Aug 1111-1115	Aug 1116-1120
Aug 1121-1125	Aug 1126-1130	Aug 1131-1135	Aug 1136-1140	Aug 1141-1145	Aug 1146-1150
Aug 1151-1155	Aug 1156-1160	Aug 1161-1165	Aug 1166-1170	Aug 1171-1175	Aug 1176-1180
Aug 1181-1185	Aug 1186-1190	Aug 1191-1195	Aug 1196-1200	Aug 1201-1205	Aug 1206-1210
Aug 1211-1215	Aug 1216-1220	Aug 1221-1225	Aug 1226-1230	Aug 1231-1235	Aug 1236-1240
Aug 1241-1245	Aug 1246-1250	Aug 1251-1255	Aug 1256-1260	Aug 1261-1265	Aug 1266-1270
Aug 1271-1275	Aug 1276-1280	Aug 1281-1285	Aug 1286-1290	Aug 1291-1295	Aug 1296-1300
Aug 1301-1305	Aug 1306-1310	Aug 1311-1315	Aug 1316-1320	Aug 1321-1325	Aug 1326-1330
Aug 1331-1335	Aug 1336-1340	Aug 1341-1345	Aug 1346-1350	Aug 1351-1355	Aug 1356-1360
Aug 1361-1365	Aug 1366-1370	Aug 1371-1375	Aug 1376-1380	Aug 1381-1385	Aug 1386-1390
Aug 1391-1395	Aug 1396-1400	Aug 1401-1405	Aug 1406-1410	Aug 1411-1415	Aug 1416-1420
Aug 1421-1425	Aug 1426-1430	Aug 1431-1435	Aug 1436-1440	Aug 1441-1445	Aug 1446-1450
Aug 1451-1455	Aug 1456-1460	Aug 1461-1465	Aug 1466-1470	Aug 1471-1475	Aug 1476-1480
Aug 1481-1485	Aug 1486-1490	Aug 1491-1495	Aug 1496-1500	Aug 1501-1505	Aug 1506-1510
Aug 1511-1515	Aug 1516-1520	Aug 1521-1525	Aug 1526-1530	Aug 1531-1535	Aug 1536-1540
Aug 1541-1545	Aug 1546-1550	Aug 1551-1555	Aug 1556-1560	Aug 1561-1565	Aug 1566-1570
Aug 1571-1575	Aug 1576-1580	Aug 1581-1585	Aug 1586-1590	Aug 1591-1595	Aug 1596-1600
Aug 1601-1605	Aug 1606-1610	Aug 1611-1615	Aug 1616-1620	Aug 1621-1625	Aug 1626-1630
Aug 1631-1635	Aug 1636-1640	Aug 1641-1645	Aug 1646-1650	Aug 1651-1655	Aug 1656-1660
Aug 1661-1665	Aug 1666-1670	Aug 1671-1675	Aug 1676-1680	Aug 1681-1685	Aug 1686-1690
Aug 1691-1695	Aug 1696-1700	Aug 1701-1705	Aug 1706-1710	Aug 1711-1715	Aug 1716-1720
Aug 1721-1725	Aug 1726-1730	Aug 1731-1735	Aug 1736-1740	Aug 1741-1745	Aug 1746-1750
Aug 1751-1755	Aug 1756-1760	Aug 1761-1765	Aug 1766-1770	Aug 1771-1775	Aug 1776-1780
Aug 1781-1785	Aug 1786-1790	Aug 1791-1795	Aug 1796-1800	Aug 1801-1805	Aug 1806-1810
Aug 1811-1815	Aug 1816-1820	Aug 1821-1825	Aug 1826-1830	Aug 1831-1835	Aug 1836-1840
Aug 1841-1845	Aug 1846-1850	Aug 1851-1855	Aug 1856-1860	Aug 1861-1865	Aug 1866-1870
Aug 1871-1875	Aug 1876-1880	Aug 1881-1885	Aug 1886-1890	Aug 1891-1895	Aug 1896-1900
Aug 1901-1905	Aug 1906-1910	Aug 1911-1915	Aug 1916-1920	Aug 1921-1925	Aug 1926-1930
Aug 1931-1935	Aug 1936-1940	Aug 1941-1945	Aug 1946-1950	Aug 1951-1955	Aug 1956-1960
Aug 1961-1965	Aug 1966-1970	Aug 1971-1975	Aug 1976-1980	Aug 1981-1985	Aug 1986-1990
Aug 1991-1995	Aug 1996-2000	Aug 2001-2005	Aug 2006-2010	Aug 2011-2015	Aug 2016-2020
Aug 2021-2025	Aug 2026-2030	Aug 2031-2035	Aug 2036-2040	Aug 2041-2045	Aug 2046-2050
Aug 2051-2055	Aug 2056-2060	Aug 2061-2065	Aug 2066-2070	Aug 2071-2075	Aug 2076-2080
Aug 2081-2085	Aug 2086-2090	Aug 2091-2095	Aug 2096-2100	Aug 2101-2105	Aug 2106-2110
Aug 2111-2115	Aug 2116-2120	Aug 2121-2125	Aug 2126-2130	Aug 2131-2135	Aug 2136-2140
Aug 2141-2145	Aug 2146-2150	Aug 2151-2155	Aug 2156-2160	Aug 2161-2165	Aug 2166-2170
Aug 2171-2175	Aug 2176-2180	Aug 2181-2185	Aug 2186-2190	Aug 2191-2195	Aug 2196-2200
Aug 2201-2205	Aug 2206-2210	Aug 2211-2215	Aug 2216-2220	Aug 2221-2225	Aug 2226-2230
Aug 2231-2235	Aug 2236-2240	Aug 2241-2245	Aug 2246-2250	Aug 2251-2255	Aug 2256-2260
Aug 2261-2265	Aug 2266-2270	Aug 2271-2275	Aug 2276-2280	Aug 2281-2285	Aug 2286-2290
Aug 2291-2295	Aug 2296-2300	Aug 2301-2305	Aug 2306-2310	Aug 2311-2315	Aug 2316-2320
Aug 2321-2325	Aug 2326-2330	Aug 2331-2335	Aug 2336-2340	Aug 2341-2345	Aug 2346-2350
Aug 2351-2355	Aug 2356-2360	Aug 2361-2365	Aug 2366-2370	Aug 2371-2375	Aug 2376-2380
Aug 2381-2385	Aug 2386-2390	Aug 2391-2395	Aug 2396-2400	Aug 2401-2405	Aug 2406-2410
Aug 2411-2415	Aug 2416-2420	Aug 2421-2425	Aug 2426-2430	Aug 2431-2435	Aug 2436-2440
Aug 2441-2445	Aug 2446-2450	Aug 2451-2455	Aug 2456-2460	Aug 2461-2465	Aug 2466-2470
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Edited by Lindsay Cook

## FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY MARCH 31 1990

## BES blues

The number of investors attracted to Business Expansion Schemes this year has contracted leaving some projects without enough money to go ahead. But the industry still hopes for a rush of investors before next Thursday Page 24

## Cold comfort

Changes to the rules governing cold-calling have been proposed by an SIB committee. If they go ahead we can expect many more calls Page 25

## Home tax

Couples can avoid their home being liable to inheritance tax without losing the use of the property. By becoming tenants in common of their homes, couples with houses worth more than £128,000 can cut or reduce the tax. Page 26

## Image inquiry

Banks are taking their clipboards into streets and homes to find out how their customers see them Page 27

## Societies rule

As building societies merge so do their rule books. The changes may be of concern to homebuyers in arrears but they may have difficulty in obtaining the rules Page 28



G&amp;R Page 29

## Garston waiting continues

By Neil Bennett

MORE than two months after the Garston Amhurst Investor Protection Group was formed, investors in the collapsed life insurance broker are still trying to recover their money.

The group has held lengthy talks on compensation with Target, the life insurance offshoot of the TSB Group, which authorized Garston to sell its products. But so far it has been unable to secure anything except an offer to meet legal fees for some of the group's members. This is despite encouraging letters from Sir Nicholas Goodison, the TSB chairman.

Target has also paid two interest instalments on a Garston policy to a lady aged 94 threatened with eviction from her nursing home.

The protection group has 125 members of the 300 it believes lost money in the collapse. The members have lost more than £3 million between them. Last week, two Garston Amhurst directors were charged with conspiracy to defraud.

## TSB turns a new chapter in passbooks

By Margaret Dibley

THE TSB wants to revitalize an old banking favourite — the passbook — but designed for use in cash machines. Before the final decision, the bank is bringing out a new savings account next month with the option of plastic cards or passbooks.

The cards will be usable in cash machines immediately and the passbooks will in time, if TSB decides to go ahead with new-style automated teller machines. A TSB spokesman said: "Although it will be called a passbook, which has certain connotations of being down-market and

not "with it," we think if it is presented in a modern way conveying convenience and usefulness, it could possibly compete with cash cards."

For years banks have tried to woo customers away from passbooks and on to the cheaper technology of plastic cards. But customers have been slow to change. Although the precise details have still to be finalized, it is known that the new TSB savings account will be an instant-access tiered account.

Explaining the bank's rekindled interest in old-fashioned passbooks, he said: "The passbook is not passé. There is a large market for an

updated form. We might do some pilots to test customer reactions in the late summer."

Changing TSB's existing ATMs only requires adapting the standard machines already installed. But he added: "It is actually quite complex and expensive because you need to print in the passbook as well as read information to update the balance."

Customers would be able to pay money in, make withdrawals and update their balances through the cash machine with their passbooks although the ATM probably will not be able to turn pages.

Although passbooks are particu-

larly liked by older people, the TSB would aim the new system at the young. The spokesman said: "The market, as we see it, is at the youth end where there is the question of design and of convenience. We believe the passbook is a form of on-line banking as you always have your balance and can always check how much you have in your account in a simple and fairly stylish way, particularly if you can introduce the whole thing into a machine."

TSB has taken the idea from the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, which a year ago introduced machines in Hongkong which can read pass-

books. They now have 247 in place with plans to install them in all the bank's Hongkong branches.

A spokesman for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank said: "Cheques have never been a big thing in Hongkong and many people have passbooks in different currencies. We call the new machines Copus — computer operated passbook updating terminals. They are like a building society passbook which you feed into the machine."

The bank keeps an electronic record as well for when the customer withdraws money over the counter or in case the passbook is lost.

## Rivals to sell Halifax Standard Life trusts

By Lindsay Cook

UNIT trusts and personal equity plans bearing the name of the Halifax Building Society should be on sale through the branches of rival building societies and independent financial advisers such as National Westminster Bank within months.

The largest building society announced this week that it has established a company jointly with Standard Life, the largest mutual insurance company and unit trust group.

Halifax Standard Life products will be available through the Halifax's 745 branches and 688 estate agency offices. Standard Life tied agents and independent financial advisers such as the Yorkshire Building Society.

The size and investment performance of Standard Life has made it one of the main beneficiaries of the Financial Services Act, which requires independent financial salesmen to provide best advice to

clients. Standard Life is number one for endowment sales and number two in the pensions market.

It only began selling unit trusts to the public five years ago and more than 50 per cent of the £5 billion it has invested in unit trusts has come from institutional clients. The joint venture is intended to bring its unit trusts to the direct attention of investors as well as brokers and advisers. It hopes the new company will allow it to compete with high street names like M&G and Savie & Prosper on their own ground.

National Westminster Bank, the largest independent, already sells Standard Life products through its branches and expects to sell the Halifax Standard Life unit trusts and peeps.

A spokesman said: "If it was the right product for the client in investment terms we would sell it." He continued that best advice did not only relate to

performance but also to service. At the Yorkshire Building Society, a spokesman said: "We would be quite happy to sell Halifax Standard Life products. If it happens to be the right thing for that person we would have no hesitation."

Mr Stephen Spilsbury, general manager of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society said it did not currently sell Standard Life products because of the company's reliance on terminal bonuses. But he added: "If the Halifax Standard Life unit trusts are the best products we would sell them."

Mr Jim Birrell, the chief executive of the Halifax, said: "It would be surprising if these products were not recommended by all independent advisers at one time or another."

The society and Standard Life were encouraged by the

successful Marks and Spencer launch into unit trusts in 1988, which relied largely on the company's name to attract new investors to unit trusts. They are likely to concentrate on similar middle of the road, safer type of funds.

The first product is expected to be a personal equity plan, which has the advantage of being tax-free. Since July last year the Halifax has accepted Peeps as a method of paying for mortgages.

Mr Birrell said: "The new products will be part of a more sophisticated investment market. They are part of our policy of offering a broader range to Halifax investors."

"We still hold firmly that everybody should have as first base an immediate access or short-term deposit account. We are developing the second and third bases."

"We hope a lot of the money invested will be new money. Some will be part of



"Broader range": Jim Birrell, Halifax chief executive

the inheritance factor." Announcing profits for the society of £534 million in the year ending January 1990, Mr Birrell said it would be launching a high income fund shortly. This is likely to take the form of a cash unit trust, which could invest partly in the Halifax. Such funds allow non-taxpayers to claim back the tax deducted from the interest. The funds will be sold on an execution basis through Halifax branches with no investment advice being given by staff. Initially there is no plan to allow investors to cash in units through branches but such an innovation would give the funds an advantage over all other unit trusts.

## Cloudy outlook for investors in Australian market

By Rodney Hobson

AUSTRALIA'S Labour government started its fourth term this week — with few words of comfort for investors in Australian unit trusts. The value of the trusts has fallen steadily for years, and the picture is unlikely to change for some time, according to the latest economic forecast.

A further rise in interest rates, a weaker Australian dollar and a fall in export values are just some of the predictions to follow the election. Australian commodity export prices are expected to show a fall for the 12 months to June 1990, according to the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics.

The dollar is projected to fall 4 per cent in the same period, and the balance of payments deficit is running at a record 5 per cent of gross domestic product.

The government has pledged to bring interest rates down from their current 19

per cent, but economists say a short-term rise is more likely.

The most remarkable performance — for the wrong reason — has been Target Australia, which in sterling terms stands at less than a quarter of its value five years ago according to figures collated by Micropal, the investment statistics group. An investment as recently as March 1987 is worth only 28 per cent of its original value now.

Two other Australian funds are worth less today than they were five years ago: Gartmore Australian, now at 79 per cent of its value on March 1, 1985, and MIM Britannia Australian Growth, worth 57 per cent. Both stand at less than half their March 1987 value.

Three funds have come through relatively unscathed: NM Australian, at 262 per cent of the 1985 level, Schroder Australian at 191 per cent and Henderson Australian at 174 per cent.

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*Planned Savings* Survey of regular contributions, 20 year, with-profits personal pensions — July 1989.



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## FAMILY MONEY

# End of season rush for BES investors

Jon Ashworth  
finds some Business Expansion Schemes have fallen by the wayside while others are being expanded

The latest season of Business Expansion Schemes ends next week with most issues struggling to raise even their minimum subscriptions.

High fliers like Airways Homes have attracted most of the money, leaving the rest to pick up what they can.

Airways Homes IV was hurriedly launched last week, after the third issue attracted £5 million in less than two weeks. Airways III and IV are both investing in homes near Gatwick to let mainly to British Airways employees. The two earlier issues invested near Heathrow.

A variety of issues have raised over £120 million and as much as another £50 million may flood in by Thursday. But analysts agree that the final total will be well short of the £350 million raised last season.

Mr John Spiers, editor of BES Investment, said he expected this season's total to be nearer £140 million — largely in line with earlier BES years.

Mr Spiers said one concern this season was the large number of issues going ahead with low levels of subscription. If less cash was raised, costs could proportionately be higher and there would be less capital for development.

He said it was possible investors would look back on the present season in a year's time and feel they had missed a good buying opportunity. Housing prices are low.

Mr John Harrison, consulting editor of BES Magazine, said as much as £175 million

may be raised for the season as a whole.

He said last season's total of £350 million had been inflated by special factors.

An extra £100 million had been raised from investors "carrying back" to the previous tax year, while another £100 had been invested in close company Assured Tenancies which are no longer available.

High interest rates were having an effect, although it is not uncommon for investors to wait right up until the end of the tax year before signing their cheques.

The season has been dominated by assured tenancies, but the number of general BES issues has also risen. Mr Harrison gave a warning that about 20 of the 40 new-assured tenancies on offer should be avoided.

Mr Anthony Yagoroff of

Best BES Advice blamed political uncertainties for the downturn.

He said investors were reluctant to lock themselves in for five years while the outcome of the next general election remained uncertain.

Specialist issues, including Neill Clerk's Cask & Tun Inns and Dairy Harvest, were well below their minimum subscriptions last week.

Cask & Tun, which has a minimum of £300,000, had raised just £35,000 by March 22.

Dairy Harvest has a lower minimum of £175,000, but had only raised £20,050 in the same period.

A decision as to whether they should go ahead is expected to be made early next week.

Several issues have been cancelled, including Eastleigh Homes from Matrix Securities,

and Independent Living from Capital Ventures. Brown Shipley, the broker, is not proceeding with Castleton Retirement Homes, and Shire Trust has cancelled its Property Portfolio Fund.

The top performers this season include Airways Homes, Arlesian II and First Stansted, all of which have been fully subscribed. Kensington Developments, sponsored by Chancery, had raised over £425 million by last week.

A new guide to the Business Expansion Scheme rules for investors and companies has been published by Investment and Tax Planning Services.

It looks at the effects of capital gains tax and inheritance tax, and explains how a company should set about raising BES finance. The guide costs £22.50. Details are available on 01-491 0739.

## BRIEFINGS

Bradford & Bingley has launched a new savings account to encourage investment ahead of the arrival of the Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts next year. The Special Issue Flexible Savings Account will pay a top rate of interest of 11.25 per cent — net of tax — to investors who convert their accounts to Tessa.

The new tax-exempt accounts will pay interest gross once they are introduced in January. Savers can invest from £50 to £3,000 in the Bradford & Bingley account, and will gain a 3 per cent bonus if they switch to a Tessa.

In a similar vein, the Yorkshire Building Society is launching an investment bond

to encourage regular savings. The ASSET bond, available from Monday, will pay net interest of 11 per cent on an investment of between £1,800 and £9,000. A bonus of 1 per cent will be paid on contributions for customers who open a Tessa with the Yorkshire next year. The bonus will only apply to accounts opened by June 1. No withdrawals are permitted before the end of the year.

Girobank has extended its 24-hour telephone banking service to 30,000 more customers in the South-east. The DIALOG service, which is now available to more than 55,000 customers, provides banking details and other

information. The service is voice-activated. Girobank's Telecom service, which deals with more general queries, receives more than 100,000 calls a week.

New Servicecards with a higher cheque limit of £250 will be available to NatWest customers from April 24. The cards, which allow Switch payments, cash machine withdrawals, and cheque guarantees, will be available on application. The higher cheque limit will be available to Gold Plus Service customers. Servicecard 100 will be available to homeowners earning £20,000 a year. The present cheque guarantee limit is £50.

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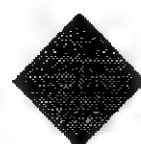
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## FAMILY MONEY

Lindsay Cook looks at a plan to allow salesmen a foot in the door

# SIB group seeks views on cold-calling investors

THE public can expect more unsolicited telephone calls and visits from investment salesmen if proposals from a Securities and Investments Board committee are adopted. And they may have to pay more for their investments into the bargain.

The retail review committee, comprising members of the self-regulatory organizations, wants brokers and investment companies to be able to sell investment trust savings schemes and personal equity plans by unsolicited telephone calls and visits.

But for investment trust schemes to qualify they must allow investors a cooling-off period after agreeing to invest and in most cases change their rules to allow daily dealing.

The board wants to continue the ban on the cold calling of split capital funds and venture capital trusts as these are more complex and involve greater risk.

About 75 per cent of the 90 to 95 trusts available through savings schemes should be able to qualify.

A spokeswoman for the Association of Investment Trust Companies said it welcomed the proposals but issued a warning that investors' costs will rise.

"Providing cooling-off periods and changing schemes so that investors can sell every day instead of once a week will add to the costs, but they should still provide better value compared with life assurance products."

Under the proposals, it would be possible for investment trusts to market their own schemes by telephone.

The report also confirms that the savings schemes should be allowed to sell directly through advertisements as long as these included product details.

At present, they are allowed to advertise, under transitional rules, but do not have to include details. Many voluntarily do so.

Mr Derek Fellows, the executive director of the SIB and chairman of the committee,



Bob Ferguson (left), Derek Fellows (centre) and Richard Cockcroft of Fimber

said the change is intended to bring investment trust schemes and share Peps into line with unit trusts. He said: "But we don't want this to become a facility for share-pushing over the doorstep."

Currently, a financial adviser might not be able to suggest the most suitable product to a client, who had first been contacted by an unsolicited telephone call. For example, an investor might benefit from sheltering £5,000 in a share Pep but a broker would only be able to suggest a unit trust with an annual investment limit of £3,000.

The committee suggested two options. One would be to confine unsolicited calls and subsequent transactions to comparatively "safe" diversified investments and investment agreements. The other would give greater latitude and would not require diversification but would still ban cold-calling of highly volatile products.

Brokers wanting to provide personal advisory and discretionary services would be

confined to contacting by telephone as this was regarded as less intrusive than doorstep visits. The board would suggest the telephone call was used to seek an appointment. At the meeting, the salesman would find out about the client and explain the risks of the investments.

A customer agreement could then be sent to the client and after it was signed and returned the service could begin.

The committee is concerned that the complexity of many products makes it difficult for investors to make an informed assessment of the risks and returns.

It proposes that a working party should look into the feasibility of developing measures of riskiness, past performance, and charges and expenses to enable comparisons to be made between different investments.

The committee also wants to make sure that performance claims are factual, compare like with like and avoid the misleading use of rankings

and other comparisons. "It is the responsibility of the regulatory authorities to take steps to reduce the danger that unsophisticated investors will be persuaded by promotional material or personal advice to commit themselves to transactions which they would not consider if they had a better grasp of the financial implications."

It is intended to set up a working party to simplify the information.

Comments are invited on the recommendations by June 29. The committee will then produce a further consultative document. This should be published this year and the earliest the proposals could be implemented would be the turn of the year.

Members of self-regulatory organizations should send their comments to their organizations. The public and other interested parties should write to Mr Bob Ferguson, Securities and Investments Board, 3 Royal Exchange Buildings, London EC3V 3NL.

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## Popular Peps are pulling in money at record levels

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTORS have put hundreds of millions of pounds into personal equity plans this month, in a last-minute rush to invest before the end of the tax year. Top providers, such as MIM Britannia and M&G have seen record levels of business, with signs that Peps are appealing to a wider audience.

Mr John Spiers, editor of *Best Pep Advice*, said that new business for this financial year was likely to reach more than £1 billion. Next year, the amount could climb again to £1.5 billion.

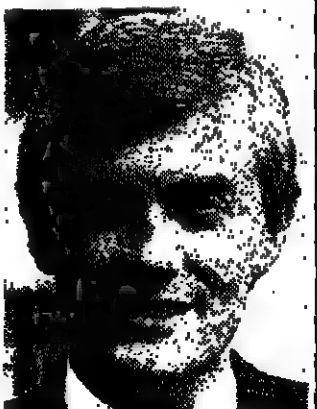
The most successful group in terms of sales is likely to be MIM Britannia, which attracted £130 million from investors last year. A spokesman said that it was on course for another very good year, although levels of investment since January would not be revealed until after the end of the tax year.

Other top performers include Lloyds Bank, Midland and M&G, which have taken close to £100 million between them since the start of the year.

Mr Derek Booker, manager of Lloyds' Pep centre, said that the year had been "an absolute bonanza" for sales. Business had reached unprecedented levels in the past few weeks, exceeding even December, when the ending of old-style Peps saw a late rush.

More than £35 million has been invested in Lloyds' Peps in the past three months. In 1989, more than £100 million was invested, and £250 million has been attracted since January 1987. The average Pep investment is £4,000.

M&G's unit trust-only Pep



Bateman: busy times at Fidelity with Peps

has proved popular since its launch last June. By this week, more than £95 million had been invested, and sales should top £100 million by April 5, when the tax year ends. M&G is no longer accepting applications for this year from intermediaries, because of the need for a seven-day "cooling-off" period to allow clients to mull over the deal. Direct applications will be accepted until April 5.

The number of new M&G accounts opened since June 1989 is expected to top 50,000, and £20 million has been received in new investment in the past month alone.

Fidelity has attracted £68 million in new Pep investment since last June. Mr Barry Bateman, managing director, said that most of the business had been seen in the past six weeks. About £130 million has been invested in Fidelity Peps since they were introduced.

Save & Prosper, with takings of £25 million in new Pep investment this month, was also confident of a good last-minute response.

## Guardian investors should boost balances for bonus

PEOPLE who have investments with the Guardian Building Society who have made withdrawals since October 12 have just two weeks left to take advantage of a maximum bonus scheme (writes Lindsay Cook).

The investors must restore their balances to secure the highest possible bonus when the society merges with the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. The merger is planned to

take place on for Easter Monday, April 16, and investors will receive a 4 per cent bonus.

This will be either 4 per cent of their balance on October 12 or 4 per cent of that on April 16, whichever is lower.

This means investors who have made substantial withdrawals may be disappointed with their bonus, which will be paid net of basic rate tax.

The society estimated that the average investor would receive a bonus of £520.

## Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 21).

Stock	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	+8	+8	+2	+5	+8	
2	+5	+4	+3	+1	+1	
3	+7	+5	+3	+3	+2	
4	+9	+7	+1	+5	+4	
5	+6	+8	+5	+2	+1	
6	+5	+5	+2	+3	+2	
7	+7	+4	+2	+5	+5	
8	+8	+7	+1	+4	+4	
9	+5	+5	+5	+3	+3	
10	+5	+3	+2	+6	+3	
11	+5	+3	+3	+5	+3	
12	+7	+8	+3	+2	+3	
13	+7	+5	+3	+5	+5	
14	+4	+3	+3	+2	+3	
15	+7	+6	+1	+3	+5	
16	+7	+4	+4	+2	+1	
17	+8	+8	+2	+5	+5	
18	+5	+4	+3	+2	+2	
19	+5	+3	+2	+2	+1	
20	+8	+8	+1	+4	+6	
21	+6	+6	+4	+3	+2	
22	+6	+4	+1	+1	+2	
23	+7	+5	+1	+6	+4	
24	+4	+3	+1	+1	+1	
25	+7	+6	+2	+3	+5	
26	+8	+5	+3	+4	+1	
27	+8	+4	+1	+7	+3	
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29	+7	+7	+1	+3	+7	
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31	+5	+5	+5	+2	+1	
32	+5	+5	+1	+3	+3	
33	+6	+4	+2	+6	+4	
34	+7	+6	+1	+3	+4	
35	+9	+7	+1	+4	+4	
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38	+5	+3	+1	+8	+3	
39	+8	+4	+4	+4	+2	
40	+5	+3	+2	+6	+3	
41	+8	+7	+1	+3	+5	
42	+8	+5	+3	+4	+3	
43	+5	+3	+2	+5	+5	
44	+5	+4	+3	+2	+3	

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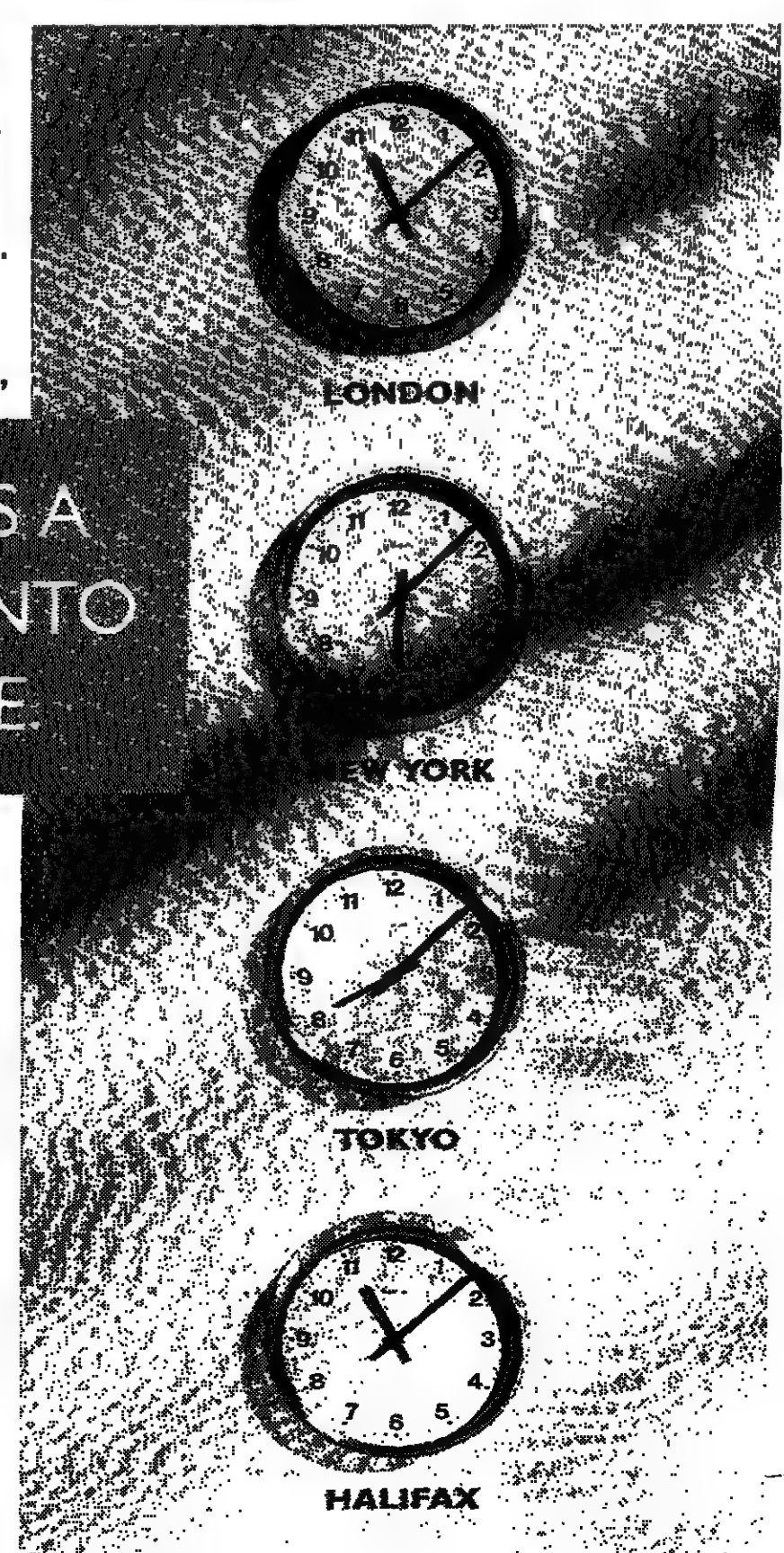
which can make this a very tax-efficient investment. Especially with independent taxation for husbands and wives being introduced on April 6th.

Then there's the interest rate. Rates are set to reflect money market conditions (you can check the going rate at Halifax branches) which means that there's the potential for a very high return indeed.

What's more, your rate is fixed for the full term of the Deposit.

As for the term itself, that's entirely up to you; you can choose any period from 1 month to one year. (With the option of reinvesting the capital or capital and interest.)

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Divide and equalize to leave more afore ye go

Margaret Dibben  
outlines several  
ways of minimizing  
inheritance tax  
on a family home

PAYING inheritance tax on the family home upsets a lot of people, especially if they do not realize there can be a way round it.

The new starting point for inheritance tax, announced in the Budget, is £128,000 worth of assets. If all your assets total less than this, there is no tax to pay. But, because houses are so valuable, many people are caught if they have not planned ahead.

The first step in minimizing inheritance tax is for husbands and wives to make sure their assets are divided equally between them.

If they knew which partner was going to die first, they could make the most effective arrangements. But, as this is not usually possible, it is best to divide possessions in half — what accountants call "equalizing" estates.

If all the money is in the husband's name, the wife would not be using her tax-free band of £128,000. Then, if she inherited all her husband's assets, her own estate when she dies will be that much larger and therefore more likely to attract inheritance tax.

Gifts can be made during your lifetime and, provided the giver survives for another seven years, there is no tax to pay. From three years the tax bill is reduced on a sliding scale.

Husbands and wives never have to pay tax on anything they leave to each other. But, when inheritance tax is due, provided they trust their heirs a couple can take steps to minimize the bill.

First, if the home is in one name, they should put it into



both names. Then, in the eyes of the law, they are "joint tenants".

This has nothing to do with paying rent; it means that, when one dies, the other automatically inherits the house regardless of what is in the will. This gives the surviving spouse — most often the wife — total security because she cannot be left homeless.

To cut the inheritance tax bill, the ownership needs to be changed to "tenants in common". This can be done by writing a letter to each other or asking a solicitor to draw up a document.

In their wills, each spouse leaves his or her share of the house to their children, however they want it passed on, and not to each other. This must be clearly stated in the will. The couple can own the house in unequal shares if they prefer.

But they cannot simply give the house away in their life-

time and continue living there to avoid inheritance tax, unless they pay rent, because they would still have an interest in the house — the taxman calls this a "gift with reservation" — and there would be full inheritance tax to pay at death.

The son or daughter inheriting the estate may have to pay inheritance tax if the deceased parent's estate still exceeds £128,000. But if it falls below, as is more likely since they are only inheriting half the value of the house, there is no tax to pay.

If an inheritance tax bill is payable, beneficiaries can have an awkward time sorting out the money.

The Probate Registry cannot issue a grant of representation without tax being assessed and paid, or at least most of it paid.

However, there is some relief for people inheriting a house. Otherwise there could

be a large inheritance tax bill to be paid before the house is theirs to sell, and certainly before they have the opportunity to put it on the market.

When filing accounts with the probate office the tax has to be paid on the personal estate, such as bank and building society accounts, but not on property and unquoted shares, until the date the tax is deemed due by the Inland Revenue. This falls six months after the end of the month in which the death occurred.

To minimize the difficulty of meeting a substantial inheritance tax bill, the Inland Revenue allows people up to 10 years to pay, but only on tax due on houses and shares in unquoted companies.

Interest is charged on delayed payments at a special rate, currently 11 per cent, compared with the 13 per cent the Revenue charges on other late payments of tax.

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## Breathing space assured for the old — at a price



Pine view: Retirement Assured's flats for the elderly at Sefton Hall, Dawlish, Devon

By Jon Ashworth

A SCHEME which allows elderly people to move into a retirement flat while they try to sell their home could leave them facing a crippling bill.

The "rent now, pay later" scheme from Retirement Assured, which specializes in retirement homes, is designed for elderly home-owners who have been unable to sell their property, but wish to move into a smaller apartment.

Through the scheme, they can leave their property on the market for up to two years without paying any rent on the retirement home in the meantime.

The company has introduced the deferred-rental scheme on a handful of apartments built by McCarthy & Stone, the retirement home specialists.

If the postponed rental is settled within 12 months, no interest is payable. If the rent is rolled-up for more than a year, interest of 12 per cent is charged on the whole amount.

Mr Chuck Stone, Retirement Assured's general man-

ager, said the scheme gave elderly people a way of moving into sheltered accommodation without having to sell their home first. It gave them a breathing space of two years in which to find a buyer.

The cost of renting a one-bedroom apartment ranges from £60 a week in the Wirral to £121 in Bournemouth. An apartment in Chipping Sodbury, in the Cotswolds, would cost £97.70 a week, together with weekly ground rent and charges of £25.

Over two years, the final bill for rent and interest would be close to £12,000. The rent would rise by about 10 per cent after the first year.

In addition the homeowner faces the prospect of paying the poll tax twice — once on the rented home, and a second time on the home which is up for sale.

In some cases the charge on the empty home could be double the personal community charge and might cost an elderly couple hundreds more pounds a year.

No poll tax would be pay-

able on the empty property for the first three months. Retirement Assured would pay the tax on the empty home for the next three months, but the homeowner would face two sets of bills from then on.

Insuring an empty property can also pose problems. Once a home has been left unfurnished or unoccupied for over a month, the level of cover on building and contents cover can be curtailed dramatically, even though premiums stay the same. Home and contents insurance costs an average of £200 per household per year.

If the property has not been sold after two years, it would be repossessed by Retirement Assured to be sold as quickly as possible. The surplus would go to the original owners once rental, interest and charges had been taken off.

Mr Stone said that the time limit was an incentive to participants to sell properties quickly. "We will be stressing to people who take up this scheme to be very sensible about the price they are asking for their property. The joy of dealing with retired people is that they do take their time and take these things very seriously."

Apartments are available in Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, the Cotswolds and The Wirral. Some of them are next to BUPA residential and nursing homes which can provide dining and extra care facilities if required. This is likely to cost at least another £10 a week, before meals and extras.

Age Concern, one of Britain's leading charities for the elderly, said it welcomed any schemes which gave more choice to elderly people. But it said it was important to stress the implications of insurance and the poll tax along with any time limits.



"Incentive to sell": Chuck Stone of Retirement Assured

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## FAMILY MONEY

Lindsay Cook uncovers some surprising results from bank research

## Lloyds purrs past in a Jaguar but NatWest has only a 2CV

BANKS are desperate to find out more about their customers. After years of seeming to ignore their wishes about opening hours, interest on current accounts, cheque guarantee cards and clarity of charges, competition is forcing them to ask what we want.

The National Westminster has commissioned a series of surveys by Gallup into savings habits. The Abbey National is using MORI to find out how we will pay poll tax and its own researchers are finding out what more customers want from cheque accounts. Midland visits teenagers at home to find out what they want from a bank, while Lloyds has been asking people to state which model of car they identify with which bank.

While some of the questions may seem a little frivolous, there is a serious reason for finding out more about customers' attitudes. And it is not only to accurately target them for new investment products.

For every customer who writes and complains to a bank, there are 16 equally unhappy customers who will each disaffect a further 26 people, according to US research, which is quoted by the Banking Information Service.

A BIS official said: "Banks are, therefore, concerned to find out what might be upsetting their customers and putting it right before the ripple effect gets to them."

At Midland Bank, Mr Kevin Gavaghan said: "We have to ask people what they want and how the service can be changed or improved to suit them as they do not tell us until it is too late." He said that First Direct, the tele-



phone banking subsidiary of Midland, was the result of research which showed that nearly 20 per cent of people had not visited their bank in the previous month.

Its Livecash account followed discussions with young people in their homes. "We use people who can talk to the young without being patronizing and find out what they really want. It is still the case that 70 per cent of bank customers remain with their first bank."

Last year, the bank's share of the youth market increased by 10 per cent and it opened 300,000 Livecash accounts.

National Westminster has commissioned research on attitudes to the Budget, which will be published next month. Mr Kevin Jennings, the director of retail banking services at

NetWest, said that it wants to know how the public has received the new tax-exempt accounts which will be launched in January.

The bank had a rolling survey on service and image. Concern about errors on standing orders had shown up as a "major source of irritation" through this and the bank had improved its checking system as a result.

The Abbey National will next month publish the results of its second personal finance survey. This will analyse how people plan to pay for their poll tax.

In addition the bank, which revealed last October that on average people carry £19.20 in cash and that three in five people would prefer to buy environmentally products even if they cost more, carries

out awareness research and tries to evaluate the general level of satisfaction amongst customers continually.

Saturday afternoon opening in selected branches followed research and the reduction of the clearing time for cheques paid into the bank's two current accounts from seven days to four days, which was announced this week, had also cropped up in the regular telephone surveys of current account customers.

"Seven day clearing has been mentioned as a drawback but the biggest single worry is the length of time customers have to wait in branches."

Barclays, which has told its 1.5 million customers that it plans to have information on each of them available through all branches unless they object, said the decision

was taken as a result of market research last year.

Lloyds Bank said that research had shown that customers opening accounts actually liked filling out questionnaires.

The spokesman said that there were also legislative reasons to collect detailed financial information.

"General market research showed that when customers go into a bank to open an account they feel a short changed if they don't have an interview. We ask them if they are married, single, or widowed. If they are employed. What their income is and whether they already have a current account."

"Customers feel it is a serious thing to open an account and they have a perception that the bank has a right to know what their salary is. We do not only ask customers we are continually researching our staff and their attitudes to the bank and customers," she added.

In addition, general market research carried out with people being picked at random and asked questions. It was one such survey that elicited that the public visualized Lloyds as a Jaguar, Range Rover or even a Rolls-Royce, while they saw Barclays as a Sierra or Cavalier.

NatWest had a similar profile as Barclays with a few opting for 2CVs and Midland was also in the Vauxhall and Ford mould with a few GTIs. Lloyds put the results down to the television advertisements. It was using Nigel Havers and Leo McKern, while NatWest was concentrating on younger customers.

## Confusion on bonuses finds Standard English solution

By Jill Inley

WITH profits, reversionary bonuses, and terminal bonuses are terms most people with a mortgage have had to come to grips with at some time in dealing with their insurance company.

Now, Standard Life, the largest mutual insurer, has decided to end confusion by sending an explanatory guide on bonuses to its with-profits policyholders.

The guide will be sent at the same time as the insurance company's bonus declaration, which tells the policyholder how much money is guaranteed to be paid by the policy.

Standard Life produces a typical statement, providing

an explanation for each section. Maturity value of a with-profits policy is a combination of three sums.

● Sum assured - the guaranteed amount of life assurance benefit to which any bonuses and additional funds assured are added.

● Reversionary bonuses - the benefit provided by with-profits policies are increased each year by bonus additions to the sum assured. Reversionary bonuses are payable at their full face value when the sum assured becomes payable, when the policyholder dies or on the maturity date. The insurance company guarantees not to reduce or remove reversionary bonuses

providing the policy is kept in force and unaltered. ● Terminal bonuses - these are further amounts which will probably be included in the claim values, in addition to the sums assured and reversionary bonuses.

The benefits are distributed among different generations of policyholders to achieve a fair spread.

Mr Alan Burton, Standard Life's marketing manager, says the company hopes to make the "jargon-besotted" of bonus statements a bit more understandable to customers. Any policy holder who still does not understand his benefit statement can contact Standard Life on 031-245 6617.

## Initiative at Nationwide

By Jon Ashworth

THE Nationwide Anglia Building Society has cut up to 1.1 per cent from its mortgage rate as part of a drive to win new borrowers.

A new package, Initiative 90, offers bonuses to first-time buyers and to borrowers taking out larger loans.

First-time buyers will gain a discount of 0.5 per cent for a year, reducing the present mortgage rate to 14.9 per cent. They will be given another 0.5 per cent discount if they link their mortgage to an endowment or pension from Nation-

wide Anglia and either buy their home through the society's estate agents or have their salary automatically paid into a FlexAccount with the society.

People taking out mortgages of £50,000 or more will be given a 0.65 per cent reduction for three years. First-time buyers who qualify for the large loan discount and the bonus discount will shave 1.15 per cent off the present mortgage rate of 15.4 per cent. For the first year, they would pay 14.25 per cent.

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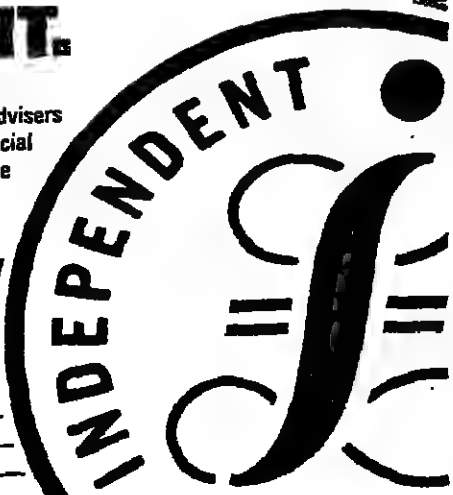
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And, as a priority customer, opening a Yorkshire Building Society TESSA plan by 31 March 1991 will entitle you to a special bonus of 1% extra interest on your first year's contributions to the plan.

Whichever way you look at it, turning an ASSET into a TESSA offers a unique investment opportunity.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Prospecting for gold bullion

By Jon Ashworth

THE first investment trust to invest only in gold shares and bullion goes on offer in Britain next week.

The Gold Investment Trust, which is jointly sponsored by James Capel and Robert Fleming, hopes to raise at least £100 million to invest in blue chip gold-mining shares and the metal itself.

A quarter of the trust shares will be available to private investors.

Mr Julian Baring, head of James Capel's mining team for 15 years, said the trust would mirror the performance of the world's leading gold shares. "The difficulty is to get the timing right in these matters. I happen to think that the timing is good."

The gold price rallied strongly last year, but has since slipped back below the \$400 level. It plunged sharply this week on the back of continuing economic uncertainties.

Despite the sharp falls, Mr Baring said he believed bullion had "passed the bottom" and was ready to move ahead.

The trust will hold up to 15 per cent in gold bullion — unlike unit trusts, which can-



Matter of timing: Julian Baring, head of the mining team at broker James Capel

not hold commodities. It will additionally invest in the shares of major gold-mining companies in North America, South Africa and Australia.

The fund manager, Mr Andrew Spencer, of Fleming Investment Trust Manage-

ment, said the trust was aiming for stable growth in the long term.

Unlike a unit trust, the number of units will not swing up and down to follow gold's fortunes. "As a closed-end fund, it will not be subject to

massive variations in cash-flow. Gold unit trusts may triple in size and then halve within the space of 12 months. This does not help stability and increases costs," Mr Spencer said.

Mr Spencer manages the

Save & Prosper Gold & Exploration and Commodity Share funds, as well as the offshore Save & Prosper Gold Fund. Gold and commodity funds have performed abysmally over the past five years. An investment of £100 in March 1985 would have grown to only £130 today in the average fund, well below a typical building society return.

Save & Prosper Gold & Exploration is ranked 25 out of 29 funds over one year. Despite the sector's poor performance, analysts say there is a place for an investment trust which will reflect the fortunes of gold-mining shares. There has been a gap in the market since Consolidated Gold Fields ceased to be quoted on the London stock market.

"We feel that this is a good time to bring such a trust into existence," said Mr Spencer. "Gold will always be cyclical, but investors need to have such a vehicle for when the time is right."

The offer for subscription in shares in the Gold Investment Trust opens on Wednesday. The minimum investment is £1,000, and charges, including commission, are 3 per cent. The projected yield, after expenses, is 1 per cent.

## Revenue writes rules for rifts

THE effects of independent taxation on couples who are permanently separated or divorced are detailed in a new publication from the Inland Revenue, (writes Lindsay Cook).

Couples should tell their tax office as soon as they decide to live apart, as their tax allowances may be affected.

A married man can claim the married couple's allowance, which replaces the married man's allowance next Friday, only if he is living with his wife at some time during the tax year for which he is claiming the allowance. There is one exception: a married man who separated from his wife before April 6, 1990, can

claim the allowance on a transitional basis if he is still married and has wholly maintained his wife since the separation by voluntary payments.

The additional personal allowance can be claimed by a parent who is bringing up a child but who cannot claim the married couple's allowance.

The applicant must look after a child at his or her own expense, and be the natural parent, step-parent or adoptive parent.

In general, in the tax year in which a couple separates the husband can claim the married couple's allowance and the wife can claim the addi-

tional personal allowance if she has a child living with her. The new publication gives the rules for tax treatment of maintenance payments, which were changed in the 1988 Finance Act.

It answers such questions as: Can I claim for payments to more than one ex-wife or ex-husband? The answer is "Yes, but the upper limit on relief in any one tax year remains the same."

The booklet, IR 93 Income Tax: Separation, Divorce and Maintenance Payments, is available free from local tax offices and from the Inland Revenue Public Inquiry Room, West Wing, Somerset House, London WC2R 1LB.

## LETTERS

## Dread disease

From D.C. Rodliffe

Sir, Your interesting article on the relatively new "dread disease" insurance (March 10, "BNF cover fallout") was spoilt for me by the no-doubt-unintended implication that because several insurers seem to have excluded BNFL employees from cover then so will they all.

Jul Insley may not yet have discovered the 20 or so other insurers who I understand already offer similar policies. Naturally, all will take a prudent view in the early years of marketing a new product. But, as Jill says, some, like well-respected Victory reinsurers, may conclude that people involved in the nuclear fuel industry do not present a major problem.

Perhaps that is why BNFL already offers its employees personal accident insurance, life assurance, and superannuation benefits rated as among the best of any industry? Yours faithfully, D.C. RODLIFFE, Insurance Manager BNFL, British Nuclear Fuels plc, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire.

## Pitfalls of direct-debit mandate

From Dr H. Yarrow

Sir, It seems to be becoming increasingly common for large organizations to induce, or even direct, their customers to sign a mandate for direct debit which enables these organizations to transfer funds from the customer's account to that of the supplier without any further notice to the customer.

Bearing in mind that a direct-debit mandate is opened, the customer is entirely at the mercy of the honesty and integrity of the supplier; and yet, in spite of this, some horrendous errors have occurred, involving the customer

in a great deal of trouble and expense.

Furthermore, the attitude of these organizations is often either that of "take it or leave it" or an insistence on a surcharge for those unwilling to tolerate this.

I have recently been in correspondence with the RAC Club, of which I have been a member for 15 years, paying my subscriptions, promptly on demand. The RAC now insist on direct debit; failing which, they will make a surcharge of £25 "in fairness to the vast majority." The reason given is that a direct debit will be a convenience to

the club and result in a saving on administration costs. Members who object will be asked to resign, as I have been.

I am old-fashioned enough to believe that clubs exist for the convenience of their members, not the other way round.

Yours faithfully, DR H. YARROW, Chairman, Dermal Laboratories Ltd, Tatmore Place, Gosmore, Hitchin, Herts.

Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice.

## Without issue

From Mr J. M. Gray

Sir, Abbey National was, quite rightly, publicly castigated last year for the shortcomings of the handling of its share issue.

Why, then, is it that the incompetence of the administration of the water issue has not been similarly criticized in public?

My wife's original cheque was debited to her bank account on December 13, but since then — in spite of repeated telephone calls and letters to the registrars in Bristol, who blandly state that they have been inundated with complaints — she has received neither certificates nor balance cheque.

She has thus been precluded from either selling her shares or buying additional shares with the balance of her original remittance.

Surely 10 weeks, with no shares and no money, must be a record.

Yours truly, J. M. GRAY, Blairlodge, Dundrum, Newcastle, Co Down.

## Building society interest charge on insurance premiums

From Mr A. Coley

Sir, I read the article on the interest charged by building societies on insurance premiums in *The Times* (March 3) with great interest as I have a mortgage with the Halifax. Up to last October I had one of their Xtracover Plus policies but because it was getting

so expensive I split up my policies. The property insurance is paid monthly along with my mortgage but the contents are now insured through the Halifax with General Accident (Contents Xtra). There is no charge for paying by instalments with this policy but no one would, of course,

tell you this. Payment is by direct debit from my Maxim account. I have written to the Halifax to clarify the interest rate position. Thank you for the information. Yours faithfully, MR A. COLEY, 46 Spinneyfield, Rotherham.

Britain under pressure on no-fault insurance

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## THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

## Havel and the Czech bouncer

**M**y new friend Vaclav Havel more or less dictated the shape of one night since you and I last communed. The evening started with my old friend Alistair Beaton demanding to be taken to the first night of *Someone Like You* because we share an affection for the producer, Harold Fielding, for whom we lost a record sum on *Ziegfeld*. Harold's new show owes everything to the evergreen Petula Clark, conceiver, composer and star.

It was a bumpy night, defined by an incident during an emotional climax to Act II. Miss Clark pointed a rifle at her faithless, bigamous husband. He said: "She won't shoot"; but a small voice in the circle pierced the moment: "She might!"

My scheme was to get Alistair to feed me background information (wicked gossip) about the musical, *King*, which has been having a rocky ride in rehearsal at the Piccadilly Theatre. He is writing additional lyrics.

The best story so far is that various lynx-eyed born-again lawyers and agents insist on starting their many conferences with devotions, beginning, I assume: "Nothing in this prayer constitutes a contract..."

Unfortunately, although I tried everything, Alistair's lips were loyally sealed. I set off for the Barbican where Terry Hands was pouring for my new friend, Vaclav. This was generous of me because Vaclav, according to one radio commentator, "hates loose ends". He looks surprisingly like his own description: "a well-fed piglet", and the naturally intellectual son of an erstwhile millionaire. Our friendship had little chance to develop because Vaclav was about 30ft away and between us and intimacy were the Pinters, Clive James, Jeremy Irons, Arnold Wesker, Ronald Harwood, Neil Kinnock and a few hundred others. I didn't see Tom Stoppard but I wondered how Vaclav balances the Pinter and Stoppard political poles. A common interest in cricket?

However, as everyone else in theatrical London is claiming closeness I don't see why I shouldn't.



Vaclav certainly knows how to make a short and beguiling speech. He hit home on censorship: "If you wish to see your work in performance it is a good idea to become president first."

LITHUANIA hogs the headlines; but what will happen in Albania — the last Red domino to fall? Who could lead them to *glasnost* and *perestroika*? Is there an available descendant of the national hero, George Castriot? Known as "Skanderbeg", in 1443 he expelled the ruling Turks. To Byron he was "Iskander" in *Childe Harold*.

Benevolent leadership has been a problem recently. In 1912 C. B. Fry, the England cricketer, was offered the throne. Prince William of Wied lasted two years. Ahmed Zog, in a retort, was PM in 1922. President in 1925, and King Zog the One (and Only) in 1928. In the Thirties Mussolini tried to marry him to an Italian princess. She

plumped for Boris of Bulgaria. Zog finally married a Hungarian, Geraldine, before fleeing Il Duce's troops. Their heir, who is incredibly tall, lives in South Africa with an Australian wife who answers the phone saying: "The King is out. Queen Susan speaking." Recently, the official *New Albanian Magazine* commended the late John Belushi, as a "classical beauty... sincere, loving, and devoted to his wife". That was all wide of the mark, but Belushi's brother Jim might be a candidate.

In the Fry tradition, I recommend an English cricketer poet for king. Why not Tim Rice? One day the phone in the palace in Tirana might be answered by Queen Elaine: "Don't cry for me, dear Albania."

WAITING in the wings at the West End Cares charity concert for Aids, I remembered my first charity gala. While I was at Oxford in the very

early Fifties, Greece was smitten by a mammoth earthquake. We did a concert and raised a few quid. I remember Alexander Weymouth behaving badly in the audience and Dame Maggie Smith, then an ASM at the Playhouse, mimicking Joan Greenwood in an excerpt from *The Importance*. The big gala was in London. We bought gallery tickets (about five shillings), and I went to a reception earlier in the Avenue Road to be thanked for my efforts by the committee.

Once there I found that I had lost my puny ticket. Lady Katherine Brandram (Princess Katherine of Greece) was the officiating royal. "Well, you must sit in my box," she said kindly, and so I found myself, on my first visit to Drury Lane, perched in the royal box.

They really had midnight matinees in those days. It started well after 11 and was still going strong at four. Laurence Olivier spoke a prologue by Christopher Fry. Some colourful Brazilians danced, and I recall Christopher Hewitt doing that revue sketch about Sir Christopher Wren — something like, "Hush, hush, if anyone calls, tell them I'm out. I'm designing St Paul's".

Lady Katherine and party left around three. I was not going to miss a moment. Alone in the royal box at the end, I heard the national anthem strike up. I stood and basked in the spotlight which swung on to me, to the consternation of my

undergraduate contemporaries in the gods, who were unaware that I was a temporary member of the Greek royal family. The music stopped. I shuffled into my coat. The orchestra played another (unfamiliar) tune.

I peered over the box and saw all the Greeks at attention. Ramrod stiff, I took another call in the spots. Since then, charity galas have always been an anticlimax.

MY NEW friends Glenn and Mel were separated from me by only one table at the 62nd Oscar awards British bash at the Ritz. I thought Ms Close and Mr Gibson were both looking good and not at all like the mother and son they are about to play in Zeffirelli's *Hamlet*. Anyway, at my table I had Rula Lenska, Helena Bonham-Carter and Emily Lloyd, so I didn't miss congress with Mel and Glenn.

LAST week I congratulated the Duchess of Devonshire (and the Duke) on their fortieth year together in the emine. Intrigued, I have cast a curious eye over other ducal families. My goodness, they have a good run for their money. When he died in 1984, the tenth Duke of Beaufort had worn his coronet for 60 years, pipping the ninth Duke of Richmond and Gordon by only six years. The recently departed Dukes of Newcastle and Northumberland clocked up 48 years apiece.

The clear front-runner now is the tenth Duke of Rutland, who celebrates his half-century at Belvoir this year, trailed somewhat by his Grace of Bedford, 37, with his fearsome Scottish-aid-of-Montrose, Atholl and Fife edging up at 36, 33 and 31 years of dukedom. I'm numbed when I ponder researching the life expectancy of dowagers.

## LIBBY PURVES

## If I were...

**I**f I were Glenda Jackson, I would be rapidly cooling off after the excitement of becoming the prospective Labour candidate for Hampstead and Highgate. With the polls showing every likelihood of my winning a seat in Parliament by 1992, nothing would be growing colder than my feet.

I am, after all, no fool; the differences between acting and being an MP are perfectly obvious to me, and not entirely welcome. I can just about face the job itself, although after years nourished by the disciplined energy and talent of theatrical work, I may well find it hard not to scream with frustration after a few hours in the waffling, bickering, backbiting atmosphere of Committees or during a late-night filibuster in the House. When I take constituency surgeries, I shall not find it easy to admit to myself, after a life of successes, that almost everything I try to do for my electors will fail on some point of bureaucracy.

I reflect that there will be many psychological adjustments to make in giving up acting for politics. One grows accustomed, for one thing, to being liked. Famous actors and actresses are, by and large, loved and feted by the ordinary, decent public, but famous MPs are not. The only ones I can think of who have ever approached the level of real affection achieved by veteran actors are Jack Ashley and the late David Penhaligon. All the others enjoy a nervy, neurotic popularity among their own parties and constituents, and are heartily disliked by the other half of the country.

I am a woman of taste and discernment and British politics, I realize, is a down-market business. I first sa-



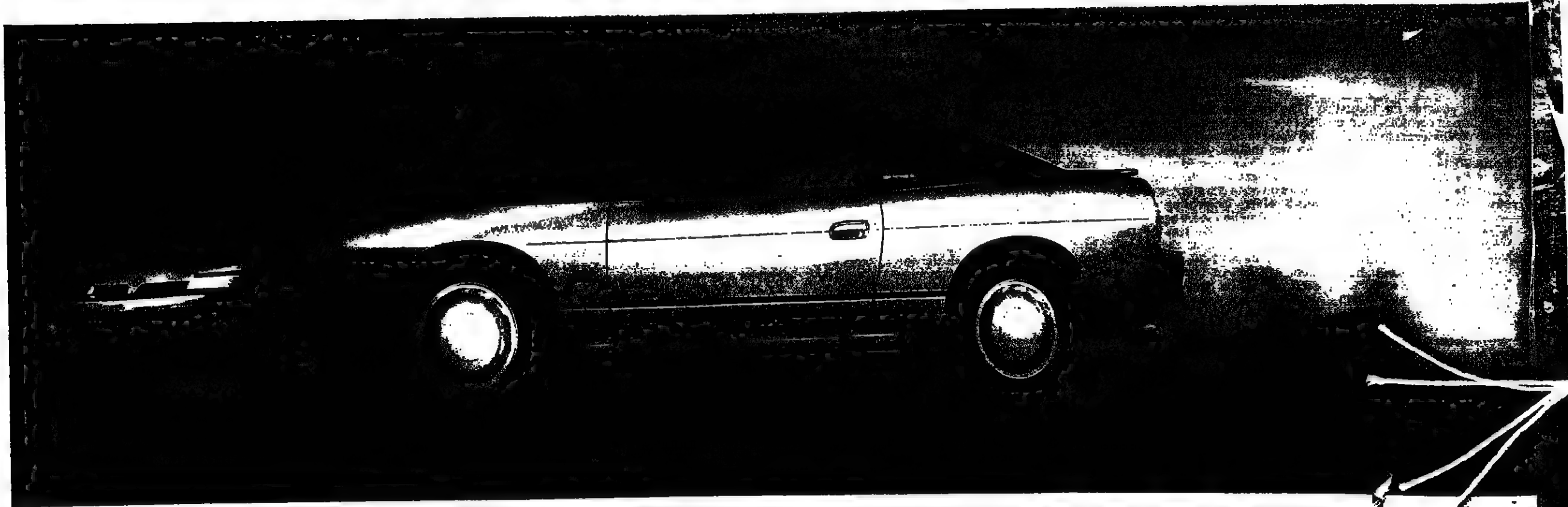
... Glenda Jackson

this when Neil made me present a bunch of red roses to the candidate Ms Deirdre Wood during the Greenwich by-election campaign. I said to her "I think it's a bit saff", but the party wasn't pleased. I remember with sinking heart how Roy Jenkins, another man with a touch of class, was forced to do Alliance Party broadcasts in the sort of soft-focus woodland setting usually associated with advertisements for lavatory paper. I wonder grimly what the party has in store for me in the big campaign.

**A**nd when I have won, I must try to be parliamentary, and keep the rules, and bite back my instinct to make wisecracks like this week's one about the House of Commons needing "a really good primary-school teacher to lick it into shape". I must take all these absurd men seriously, and not giggle at all the silk stockings and fancy wigs and Black Rods and people shouting "Hats off, strangers!" for the Speaker's procession. I must pretend, as a humble new girl, to accept that mooring and shouting "yah, yah" is an essential part of British democracy. I must make allowances. I am, after all, moving from professional theatre to amateur.

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## FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN JACQUES

## Fishing for solutions



Arriving in the Falkland Islands after an 18-hour flight that only sees land once — that's Ascension Island, a volcanic blob in the Atlantic — it is customary for the more waggish RAF cabin crew on board the wide-bodied TriStar jet, which makes the trip twice a week, to announce: "You should now put back your watches three hours and 20 years."

It's not just the fact that these islands — East and West Falklands and more than 100 others of various shapes and sizes — are 8,000 miles away in the middle of an ocean that gives the impression of isolation from the rest of the world. Once you have landed — and extricated yourself from the embrace of all the military paraphernalia which absorbs huge chunks of land around Mount Pleasant airport — meeting the natives is a bit like going back a couple of decades.

Not that you would expect to find Port Stanley, the capital, overrun with BMWs. Nor, with the climate here, would you anticipate running into anyone who could be described as fashionably dressed. But, that aside, the Falklands way of life was moulded a long time ago and has hardly changed.

Nevertheless, in the eight years since the Argentinians were vanquished and sent packing after seriously disturbing the peace for 74 days following the invasion on April 2, 1982, the inhabitants have had to acknowledge that, in many ways, their islands have been transformed. The pace of life is still slow, but renewed interest in the Falklands from the outside world has brought financial gains and some unwelcome side-effects.

Their attitude towards the Argentinians has not changed, however. While relations between London and Buenos Aires have improved significantly, the islanders remain hostile. They need to be reassured that Britain will continue to protect them — even more so from today, with the lifting of the 150-mile protection zone around the Falklands. Recently an Argentinian yachtman in difficulties sought permission

**Michael Evans**  
reports on the  
changes afoot in  
the Falklands, the  
islands that time  
is just beginning  
to remember

to land at Port Stanley to carry out repairs. He was not allowed to go ashore and no one would have welcomed him had he done so. Now the islanders are worried that the removal of the protection zone will enable Argentinians in similar situations to walk the streets of Port Stanley.

Tricia Card, a 22-year-old "rouse" (someone who works with the sheep shears, piling up the wool into bundles), has a commonly held view of the Argentinians. "We don't want them back," she said. "We don't want anything to do with them. We don't even want them to come and visit the cemetery [for the Argentinian soldiers killed in the war], although I suppose that's all right, as long as they don't stay long." The cemetery is not far from Goose Green, hidden in the hills so that it cannot be seen from any of the houses.



Port Stanley already has an extraordinary mixture of visitors: Russians, Poles, Taiwanese, Koreans, Bulgarians, Japanese. They generally come ashore, about 50 at a time, in little groups, and wander round Stanley for a few hours to stretch their legs before leaving. These are the fishermen who come to the South Atlantic to scoop up the squid, hake and whiting and hand over large sums of money for the privilege. Fish, not sheep, are now the Falklands' biggest money-maker. More than 70 per cent (£27 million) of the Falklands' estimated revenue of £39.5 million

for the current financial year will come from fishing licences.

There are about 180 vessels fishing at any one time with 250 licences each costing from £10,000 to £250,000. There are only three British boats among them. The fish are so abundant that it's possible to recoup the cost of a £250,000 licence in one week. The average daily take is between 50 and 60 tons. But Port Stanley gives no impression of being a boom town.

William Fullerton, the academic-looking governor, sitting in his comfortably old-fashioned sitting-room at Government House, explains why. Dismissing a report that the Falklands was now, for man, the richest country in the western hemisphere, he says: "This place is not rolling in money. We've got a £36-million infrastructure programme going on at the moment, just to get us up to acceptable standards."

The extra revenue has meant improved electricity and water supplies and a decent telephone system. Several entrepreneurs have also made their fortunes by supplying provisions for the fishermen, who never stay long in Stanley. A quick walk round West Store to buy souvenirs, a drink in one of the four hostilities — the Upland Goose, Globe, Victory or Rose and Crown — and they are off back to making money in their stake-out in the South Atlantic. Since there are about 4,000 of them, it's fortunate they do not all turn up at the same time. Stanley could not cope.

If there's no fish boom in the town, what about an oil boom? Although experts say there could be oil around the Falklands, no one is certain. Mr Fullerton says. Some of the islanders believe it could damage their way of life, although a few were reassured after visiting the Shetlands to see how they are coping with their oil boom.

A few hundred yards up from Government House, along the waterfront, Superintendent Bill Greenland, ex-military police major and, since February 1985, chief of police, has other reasons for not being enthusiastic about oil-lucrative visitors flocking to the South Atlantic. He and his team of 13 men and three women are



already faced with a high delinquency rate among the local populace, and the foreign fishermen have been known to cause trouble.

Despite his onerous duties, Mr Greenland never stops smiling. Crime figures have leapt from 42 recorded offences in 1984 to about 380 last year. "But there is no organized crime," he says. "There are no professional criminals in the Falklands. We get a lot of motoring offences, and we've also had two quite serious burglaries. Last year jewellery and watches worth £8,000 were stolen from a gift shop."

The 42-year-old superintendent from Stafford likes his job so much that he has parted with his family. His wife, Elizabeth, a graduate, has returned to Britain with their three children because she wanted a fulfilling job. Mr Greenland gets leave once a year.

One of the serious problems facing the Falklands is the housing shortage. People are so desperate for a place of their own that surplus Army Portakabins, com-

plete with inventories and showers, are sold off every year at an open day in July and are snapped up by the islanders at prices ranging from £25 to £300. Some are used as weekend retreats.



Others buy ready-made kit homes from Chile. You can purchase a quarter of an acre of land for £14,000, spend another £2,000 erecting it, and have a home of your own. The trouble is that this sort of building initiative is likely to be banned soon, following the arrival in the Falklands last November of Roy 'Carriver' from the Shetlands. He has been appointed the islands' first planning officer and is drawing up building regulations, which will ensure that all houses are properly insulated and protected from the bad weather.

The most expensive houses sell for about £100,000. The only people who can afford these are

business consultants and government officials, of whom there are about 300, including postal officers, engineers and administrators. Most of the professional staff, such as doctors and dentists, and 70 per cent of the teachers, are recruited from Britain. So, too, are the attorney-general, finance secretary, chief executive and Crown counsel.

A number of new homes are appearing on the outskirts of Stanley, but the rate of construction is slow because all the materials have to be shipped from Britain.

Accommodation is so limited for the American and German tourists who arrive by cruise ship from Chile, on their way to or from the Antarctic to photograph the wildlife — penguins, elephant seals, albatrosses, sea lions — that they have to eat and sleep on board their vessels.

The hotels can only cope with those tourists who fly in on the RAF TriStar jets from Britain. The Upland Goose, which charges about £30 a night for bed and

breakfast, has only one rival, the Malvinas Hotel; both are in Stanley. The latter used to be called Malvinas House, but was renamed Harrier House in honour of the RAF pilots who used to frequent it after the 1982 conflict. The owners were also worried that British servicemen would not appreciate the old name, because it sounded like the Malvinas — Argentina's name for the Falklands. However, Malvinas is a common girl's name in the Falklands, and the new owners have reverted to the hotel's original name.

There are no new hotels, but the local tourist office has drawn up a network of bed and breakfast places dotted around the Falklands, which charge about £18 a night. There are also special tourist lodges in beauty spots such as Sea Lion Island.

As for the military, they remain tucked away in their unpleasantly green Mount Pleasant garrison. The servicemen, most of whom come for four months, count off the days until they can return home.

## FARMYARD DIARY

Paul Heiney

## Stereo warfare

ON THE first night in our new farm, war broke out. It was a skirmish that shook the old stable buildings to their dubious foundations.

On an ordinary farm, you can reasonably assume that if you buy a new tractor, it will stand quite happily with the old ones. The same is not true of equestrians.

Our new young horse, named Blue, had arrived in the afternoon and taken his place in the stable with our two old-stagers, Punch and Star. Nothing much happened. After feeding, and with dusk falling, I turned all three into our enclosed horse-yard for the night. That was their cue. There was a mighty roar from the normally docile Star and a buck and a kick from the usually idle Punch. Blue covered in a corner. I put a heavy gate between me and them as they charged and galloped, zig-zagging up and down a field and the taste of chemical borne on an unfortunate breeze was soon on my lips. I dived behind a hedge and thought, His right to spray is incontrovertible but so is mine to farm without chemicals. There will have to be some diplomacy across the hedge.

The air of tension that had hung over the farm since the stable-yard fight was broken by the arrival of an encouraging letter from a friend. He quoted the warning to the farmers in Britten's *Paul Bunyan* (libretto, W.H. Auden):

"If there isn't a flood, there's a drought.  
If there isn't a frost, there's a howl.  
If it isn't the insects, it's the banks.  
You'll howl more than you'll sing.  
You'll frown more than you'll smile.  
You'll cry more than you'll laugh.  
But some people seem to like it.  
Let's get going."

Feeling better, I went to harness the horses for the first day's work on my own farm.



## MUSEUMS

## 221b or not 221b?

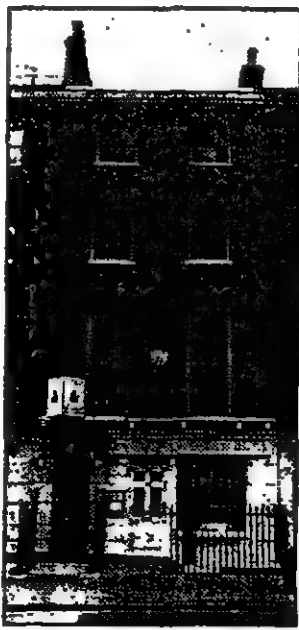
Sherlock Holmes did not exist, and neither did his home, 221b Baker Street. It's all pure fiction, a legend cherished by millions around the world.

But last Tuesday, a new chapter in the latest Sherlock Holmes mystery came to light. The Sherlock Holmes Museum has opened at 221b Baker Street... in London, or rather, 239 Baker Street, because the Abbey National is at 221b, which of course never actually existed...

The debate over Holmes' "real" home would do justice to one of the great Victorian sleuth's own cases. Those on the trail would have found that, since Conan Doyle's sleuth was established 100 years ago, Baker Street has been renamed twice, in 1921 and 1930. For about 50 years it has been assumed that the home was on the site of what is now the Abbey National's base at 225-235.

But, last summer, John Aidiniantz decided to check it by counting the houses up from Oxford Street. The house he came to was not the Abbey National. It was for sale, it fitted descriptions in the stories and *Strand* magazine drawings, and there were exactly 17 steps up from the street, as mentioned in *A Scandal in Bohemia*. Built in 1815, it had been empty since 1934 and still had the furnishings and gas fittings of a private Victorian lodging.

Mr Aidiniantz, a 33-year-old Londoner with an Armenian name, admits that he has had a mixed career — selling videos to Nigerians, dressmaking, being a property agent for Arabs, a music publisher, a singer's promoter



Mystery: did Holmes live at 239 (left) or at 225-235?

— but he believes he has found a potential pot of gold: Holmes' "real" 221b, not so fictional perhaps, since Conan Doyle had lived only a few yards away in York Place.

The asking price was £500,000, and he put an advertisement in *Country Life* appealing for help from "a titled person". One came forward, but him in touch with a bank manager who loaned him the half million.

He persuaded Westminster's planning committee to allow him to make 239, in a residential zone, into a museum. Using the 56 short stories and four novels, and then scouring antique shops and auction houses, he has recreated the study with Holmes-style pipes, chemistry



Mystery: did Holmes live at 239 (left) or at 225-235?

peripherals, tobacco slipper, even the violin ("I don't know if it's a Stradivarius, I think Conan Doyle might have been using a bit of journalistic licence").

The museum is still being developed. Watson's bedroom is being made into an art gallery of Sidney Paget drawings and what would have been Mrs Hudson's rooms on the third floor will become a tea shop where visitors can drink Queen Victoria's favourite brew, Mazeranite tea.

Mrs Hudson herself will greet guests, as Holmes, of course, retired to the Sussex Downs to raise bees. "If British Telecom co-operates we'll be installing a telephone

link to the villa so people can talk to Mr Holmes directly," Mr Aidiniantz says. It stretches belief, but then, he is the creator of what may be the world's first museum dedicated to someone who never lived.

Staff at the Abbey National at 225-235 have been acting as custodians of the Holmes myth for many years. Tony Harries, its corporate affairs accountant, is Sherlock Holmes' unofficial secretary, handling about 20 enquiries a day. "We don't object to a museum opening down the street, in fact we think it's a good idea. What we object to is him calling it 221b," Mr Harries says. "The Post Office recognizes this as 221b. Anything that comes for the museum, and we get bits and bobs, we forward. To number 239." He takes his role seriously, and is going on a lecture tour of America this summer, talking to some of the 156 Sherlockian societies, or the Baker Street Irregulars, as they like to be known.

According to the Sherlock Holmes Society, burgeoning with 1,400 members and membership now closed, both claimants are wrong. Squadron Leader Philip Weller, of the society, says: "Our members spend weeks poring over maps to establish these things, and in Holmes' time neither of these houses was in Baker Street, they were in what was then Upper Baker Street."

"They would have been on the opposite side of the street, and further down on the corner of George Street and Baker Street." But, of course, remember 221b never existed.

Simon Tait

## SALES GUIDE

**LITTLE AND LARGE:** George II bachelor's chest, stands out in this furniture sale (£2,000-£3,000). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-584 9161). Viewing: tomorrow 2.30-5pm, Mon and Tues 8.45am-7pm, Wed 8.45am-5pm. Sale: Thurs 2pm.

**TREASURE TROVE:** Mixed bag of prints, pictures, watercolours and books with at least two treasures: a privately printed first edition of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* signed by D. H. Lawrence, published in Florence in 1928 (£180-£250). And a Girl autograph album containing some of the best stars

autographs of the Slides, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Dusty Springfield, Adam Faith and George Formby. (£80-£120). Henry Spencer and Sons, 20 The Square, Bedford, Northamptonshire (0777 708633). Viewing: Tues 10am-5pm, Sale: Wed 11am.

**WOODWORKER:** 1,500 lots of woodworking tools. David Stanley Auctions, Stordun Grange, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire (0530 222320). Sale, Kensington Town Hall, Horton Street, London W8: today 10.30am.

**PORTON REVISITED:** Archaeology and natural history of a chalk downland site, the 7,000 protected acres of the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down. Salisbury and South Wilts Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close, Salisbury (0722-332151). Opens today. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Until June 30.

**FUN OF THE FAIR:** Hand-made model roundabouts coinciding with Grantham's mid-Leit fair. Grantham Museum, St Peter's Hill, Grantham (0476 52753). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. April 2-June 3.

John Shaw

## EXHIBITIONS

**TO THE BOAT:** 200th anniversary of the lifeboat marked by an exhibition from the first sea rescue to the present day. South Shields Museum, Ocean Road, South Shields (091 458 5740). Tues-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm, Sun 2-5pm. Until September 2.

**LETTERING:** Portsmouth Museum Exhibition comes to town, featuring interest in calligraphy. Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, London SW1 (01-930 8411). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Until May 20.

## OUTINGS

THE sixth International Clowns Convention takes place this weekend in Bognor Regis. Clowns from all over Europe, including national stars such as Ruben and Mike from Sweden, Roberto Costa from Switzerland and Pipo from West Germany, will attend. And two Russian clowns — Mimichichy (the crying mimic) and Vladimir Oshansky — will visit for the first time.

The convention gets larger every year, and next year the UK will host the first world convention to be held outside the United States. It started 45 years ago, when Stan Buit, a clown buff, persuaded three clowns — Coco, Rainbow and Albert — to form the Circus Clown Club, or III Cs. The event expanded to become the Clowns International Club. Members met in London every year for the Clowns' Service, held in honour of the great Grimaldi. For the past six years, they have also gathered for this convention, which includes workshops and performances for the public.

You can see them all this weekend in Bognor Regis, with shows taking place in the Big Top and fringe entertainments on the streets. Highlights today include the Grand Parade, which leaves the Big Top at 10.30am, the official opening by Ken Dodd at 11.30am, and a gala show at 7.30pm. Tomorrow the main event is the Magnificent April Fool Show at 3pm.

● Big Top, Bognor Regis Centre, Bognor Regis, West Sussex (0243 865551). Today, 10am to midnight, tomorrow 10am to late afternoon. Ticket prices range from £1 for small shows, to £5 adult, £4 child for tonight's gala performance.

**CHING WORKSHOP:** To the cognoscenti, the I Ching — or book of change — needs no introduction. Jeff Muddle, astrology consultant and teacher, holds a workshop answering questions and showing how to use the book. Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2. Today 12.30-2pm. Free.

**DAILY MIRROR CHANGING ALL:** INTERNATIONAL: Thirteen countries — including the USSR, Japan, France, China and the US — take part in this one-day event in voluntary exercise for men and women who hold at least one national title. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Today 2pm onwards. Box-office, open 10.30am onwards, (021-780 4141). Tickets £4 and £8.

**WILLIAM MORRIS, 1834-1896:** From today until mid-summer, visitors to the castle can see a major exhibition arranged by the Victoria and Albert Museum. More than 100 exhibits on display, show the design work of Morris and his associates. Bodleywyddan Castle, Bodleywyddan, Chwyd, Wales (0745 583539). Until June 10, daily except Fridays, 10.30am-5pm, last admission 4.30pm. Adult £2.75, child £1.50, family £7.

**CARING FOR THE DOWNLANDS:** Alan Ferguson, Eastbourne's downland ranger, leads a walk through woods and over downland slopes. Meet tomorrow, 10.30am, corner of Paradise Drive and Links Road, Eastbourne. Further information Sue Stott (0323 411888).

**LEEDS CASTLE SUMMER SEASIDE:** Open from tomorrow, with several major improvements made during the winter months. Apart from the maze, underground grotto, aviary and excavation of the mill, trees lost in the 1987 storm have been replaced along with shrubs and herbaceous plants. Booking for the summer concert, classical and jazz — also opens tomorrow. Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (0822 765400). Until October 31, daily 11am — last admission 5pm. Adult £3.70, child £2.20, family ticket — two adults plus two children — to grounds £11, castle and grounds £14.50.

Judy Froshang



# A CHILDHOOD: IRINA RATUSHINSKAYA

'I wasn't the first poet to be arrested, and I'm not the last. I'm just lucky'

When Irina Ratushinskaya was a child she took the willow sapling she had been growing in a pot for two years and replanted it in the yard of the apartment building in which she lived in Odessa, in Ukraine. A week later workmen came and, despite her protests, ripped up the willow and concreted the yard. It was her first brush with authority.

In one way or another she has been protesting ever since, a course of action which, in 1983, led to her being sentenced to seven years' hard labour for expressing anti-social views in her poetry.

Stripped of her Soviet citizenship, she now lives in London with her husband, Igor, freed after four years because of international pressure, but not exonerated. She was not pardoned, and did not ask for a pardon because she did not consider herself guilty. Officially she is still "a specially dangerous state criminal".

In person she is probably the least dangerous looking person imaginable. "You have to understand that Russian people take poetry and literature very, very seriously. I was not the first poet to be arrested because of what I wrote and I'm not the last. I'm just the lucky one who survived."

"Poetry is not an art which can be practised without freedom, and when people don't have physical freedom they want spiritual freedom more than ever. The only window from their cell for many people is poetry. Because of this, a poet is somebody in Russia. And, of course, if a poet is out of control he or she can influence very many people. That's why our poets are sometimes considered very dangerous state criminals."

She was born in 1954 to a professional couple, her mother a teacher of Russian language and literature and her father an engineer. The family lived with a grandmother in a two-roomed flat. When she was 12 a sister was born. She was 20 before her parents had their own room.

From the earliest age she was encouraged to read. "Because of my parents' work, our flat was filled with books, and because my parents didn't have time to educate me, they felt I should read as early as possible."

"I would say that my relationship with my parents was rather formal. They were always working and didn't have time for long conversations with me. I would have been embarrassed if my father had seen me crying."

"You must remember that they had to do things which parents don't do in Britain. For instance, our apartment building did not have central heating for a long time and I would have to accompany my father into the dark basement and hold the candle while he got the coal for our stove. There were rats in the basement and I was frightened, but I had to hold the candle so that it didn't



shake. I could never show fear. My parents always wanted me to be strong and not show my emotions to other people. It was a tradition in our family not to speak too much about what we felt and not to show that we were afraid of pain. It was out of the question that I would cry because of pain, having injections or having my teeth drilled at the dentist. I just had to pretend, from my earliest childhood, that I felt nothing.

"Sometimes I would like to have been more close with my parents, but it was their way of bringing up children. And I'm not going to criticize them."

What her parents could not have known was that their way of bringing up children was the perfect mental training for dealing

by Ray Connolly

with the KGB, hunger strikes and a labour camp. When the KGB tried to make her cry, they failed.

By the time she was at school she had already met her future husband, Igor Gerashchenko, the son of family friends, whose family went to stay with her's when she was six. They kept in touch, rivals as much as friends. In her autobiography (*In The Beginning*, Hodder and Stoughton, £14.95) alternate chapters are given to his story.

At school she was obviously bright, but at quite a young age she became aware of, and critical of, an indoctrination which was supposed to turn children into informers against their parents.

"I never knew anyone who did inform. Children don't like tell-tales, but we were all told the story of the legendary Pavlik Morozov who had informed on his father, and we were expected to admire him." (The father was shot for bending the collective farm rules and young Pavlik was made a questionable martyr by being axed to death by the workers.)

From a non-religious home, she took an early fascination in the Russian Orthodox religion of her grandparents, because of the references to God in the classroom.

"I came to God because my mind was concentrated on the name of God by my school-teachers. They were supposed to be doing the opposite and explaining to us that God didn't exist and that only silly old ladies believed in Him. But I asked myself why

they spoke so much about something which did not exist.

"My first religious experience was when we had to stay behind after lessons and listen to anti-religious propaganda. It was snowing outside and it so seldom snows in Odessa that we all wanted to go out and make snowballs. So I thought: 'Well, God, if you exist it's because of you we're sitting here, so why don't you help us?'"

"Probably it was coincidence, but help came and the snow stayed for three days. I would have come to God sooner or later. It is impossible in our culture to look at art or read classic books without finding God everywhere. It may have been difficult for us to read 20th century foreign novelists, but all the classic books were translated into Russian and I read them. So the Bolsheviks were not so smart in destroying the memory of God."

"In Soviet society children quickly learnt to keep things to themselves and not to share information. And this lack of confidence made me lonely. So who can help the lonely child if nobody else does? Only God."

Living in Odessa on the Black Sea brought her into contact with diverse sections of society, from the intelligentsia to bandits and prostitutes. The mother of a close friend was a prostitute. "I learnt to understand almost all levels of our society," she says.

"The only level I could not understand was the KGB. I did not feel that they were human." After school she went to university in Odessa to study maths and physics. Education was part of the family tradition.

Then, at 19, she received instructions to go to the Odessa headquarters of the Komsomol, the Communist Youth League. She assumed they wanted to talk to her about the organization of the KVN (Klub Veselykh i Nakhodchivlykh), an inter-university competition of wit and humour. She was wrong. With an unobtrusive wink and a nudge, she was really being asked if she would become a prostitute-informer, courting foreign visitors to Odessa. She refused point-blank.

"I was lucky in that I knew enough of what was going on to disobey and not sign anything. If I hadn't known what it meant to be a prostitute-informer, I might have swallowed the hook."

She was not, as she feared, expelled from the university, but a note was made on her records that she was unreliable. At the end of her third year when the rest of her class went to Poland for a field trip, she was not allowed to go. She considered she had got off lightly.

By now her poetry was becoming popular with her friends, who would copy her work and pass it on. One friend who encouraged her in her poetry became her first love, a Jewish boy who had been given permission to emigrate to Israel.

It was, like all classic first loves, doomed to sadness. But before he left to take the train to Israel he



The legacy: Irina Ratushinskaya now helps others. "Until the last political prisoner is free I cannot sit down and stare to the sky"

gave her a present of an 18th-century Bible, the Old and the New Testaments, printed in Old Church Slavonic. It took her six weeks to learn to read the ancient alphabet before she could read the Bible. From that moment she knew that she was a Christian.

From university she went into teaching, but found again that she could not accept the political slant which was required even to teach mathematics and physics, and so left and took a job in a laboratory. Still the poetry came. By now she knew the KGB was aware of her.

Then, on her 25th birthday, Igor arrived with a flower to suggest she leave Odessa and move in with him in Kiev. She accepted. Six months later they were married. Already known for her

writing in Odessa, Leningrad and Moscow, where she was known as "Rhythmsmith Irina", a dissident circle in Kiev began to open up to her.

Igor, a like mind and also a Christian, was printing and distributing illegal copies of banned books, while she continued with her poetry. They both knew that it was only a matter of time before the KGB came. In 1979, after a fresh clamp-down on dissidents, they applied to emigrate, but their application was not even considered.

On Human Rights Day, 1981, they were both arrested for the first time, for demonstrating with other dissidents around the statue of Pushkin in Moscow. The sentence was 10 days. But it was

no deterrent. Irina had expected to be arrested. Fifteen months later, on her 29th birthday, she was sentenced to seven years' hard labour. Her poetry was now too well-known for the KGB to ignore.

She came to London in 1987, after her "forced-pardon". She chose Britain, she says, because while many countries sent invitations through the post, only the British did it through the British Embassy. The others never got through the Soviet postal system.

One day she would like to return to a free Christian Russia, but who can tell, she asks, what Russia will be like in even two years? In the West she has become a heroine, but when asked if she believes her parents are proud of her she does not answer directly. It is difficult

to speak to her mother because she does not have a telephone in Odessa. She is very guarded about speaking for them.

Irina began composing poetry before she was able to write. It was one of her favourite games. Now she has less time to write than ever and is struggling to finish a five-author book with her husband and other dissidents.

After her release from the labour camp she wanted only peace and quiet, but life has become increasingly hectic as she has travelled from country to country.

She was once helped and now she must help others. "Until the last political prisoner is free I cannot sit down and stare to the sky," she says.

Continued from page 31

principle of all manner — may be brought closer by the observations from the Hubble.

As Professor Hawking suggests, Einstein's general theory of relativity, which describes the vast distances of the universe, and Planck's theory of quantum mechanics, which predict the movements of the smallest particles, do not fit together when the big is compressed into the small at the beginning of time.

Dr Goscini will be hoping fully to combine his Renaissance model, Galileo, and join some of the most cherished scientific baggage of his century. But that race has barely started yet.

One reason for the still-suppressed excitement among the Hubble scientists is that they have been hardened over the years by delays and disappointments. There have been difficulties with almost all the equipment on board, particularly with the cameras. The instruments are now more than 10 years old in design and the computers are less powerful than many a domestic desktop.

If the Hubble simply fails to work, as much less ambitious projects have done in the past, it could set back the funding of astronomy for a decade.

The astronomers console themselves with the fact that the roads to the great discoveries are rarely anything but rocky. We have stumbled for millenniums from truth to falsehood and back.

Greeks in the 3rd century BC knew that the Earth moved round the Sun. Three centuries later their successors thought the opposite — an error which was so compounded by religious and political pressures that it took 1,500 years before Copernicus returned mankind to the right path.

In 1619, Galileo proved that path was correct by being

both builder and architect. He looked through an early telescope and saw the moons circling around Jupiter, indicating that the Earth was not the centre of all things. But he risked persecution and imprisonment in the process.

Some critics of the Hubble project are irritated that the team should give itself such airs. "Galileo's was an act that changed man's whole natural philosophy," says Dr Robert Smith, another Englishman at Johns Hopkins University who is the unofficial historian of the space telescope. "I am sceptical that they can really do as much as that. It is a pity that they have to make the claims in order to get the funding."

The potential intellectual prizes are truly glittering, however. The quest to come close to the Creation may seem overweening to scientists who would rather spend the money on something more assured. But it certainly strikes a chord with the public — one good reason, in fact, for the American system of having such detailed political control over publicly funded science.

If anything could cause greater public excitement than the truth about the Creation, it is a true Apocalypse. Some cosmologists believe that the permanent forces of gravity pulling the universe together will one day be greater than the waning expansionary power of the Big Bang, and that at some point the universe will reverse its tracks towards the ultra-dense mass from which it exploded. Others think that the expansion will continue forever, albeit more slowly than before.

The Hubble telescope should help to tell us how much mass there is in the universe, and how much faster the galaxies travelled billions of years ago than they do now. We may thus learn if the end of the universe is nigh, and if so, how nigh.

## Eternal questions of modern life

In the supermarket:  
1) How long can I go on trying to open this plastic vegetable bag before people look at me oddly?  
2) Wouldn't I be better off in the next-door queue?  
3) Do I have time to run back and get a light bulb?  
4) Will everyone else think I've been greedy buying all these croissants?  
5) Did I forget to have the carrots weighed, and will I therefore earn the ire of the entire queue as they all wait and wait for the bell to be rung, the sighing assistant to arrive and depart and, 10 minutes later, the exasperated cry of "36 pence" to be heard from a distant corner?  
6) Where am I meant to put the trolley now that I have unloaded the items on to the counter?  
7) Was it just me, or did everyone in the supermarket smirk when I moved my hands forward to push the doors that were then to turn out to be fully automatic?  
In the clothes shop:  
8) Why are those young ladies looking at my clothes with lips so pursed?  
9) Did I detect laughter as I emerged from the cubicle in those trousers which were, after all, only slightly too tight?  
10) Why does the assistant invariably put his head over the swing doors asking if he can be of any help just as I have pulled my trousers clean off?  
In the shoe shop:  
11) Why did the assistant shy away upon removal of my shoe?  
12) Now that he is asking me to try walking normally, why have I forgotten how?  
In the pub:  
13) Will they all think it

was me who played "Save Your Kisses For Me" on the juke-box?  
In the street:  
14) Will the nice man with the collecting box suspect that I am not really that interested in the shop window on the other side of the road?  
15) Did anyone notice when I nearly tripped over?  
16) Did I forget to do up my flies?  
17) Was that really me reflected in that window just now?  
18) If so, surely the window was distorted in some way?



and where on earth did I put that ticket?  
28) And why is he now punching that ticket in such a suspicious manner?  
In the restaurant:  
29) When ordering the Filet de Veau en Feuilleté et Jus d'Asperges, do I say the whole thing, do I mumble "Veau, please", or do I flunk it and just say, "And I'll have the veal"?  
30) How can I manage to keep up this expression of marvellous while they continue to flame my steak?  
31) Did I forget to look thrilled to bits when the waiter raised the silver dome?  
32) What's 12 per cent of £37.50?  
33) While the waiter is roasting the dishes of the day, and I am nodding my head in assiduous contemplation, will he guess that I lost track five dishes ago and so will undoubtedly be choosing something from the written menu, making all his effort superfluous?  
In the bank:  
34) Why does my signature never look like my signature?  
35) Surely they haven't asked me to wait a minute so as to place me at my ease while they call the police?  
At the hairdresser:  
36) Why do they always look so standoffish when they ask me where I last had it cut?  
37) Why couldn't I think up any reply when he said, "Call this summer"?  
At the gentlemen's club:  
38) Was that grunt directed at me?  
39) How many times can I ring the bell for service before it appears rude, and what do I do then?  
40) Are they just pretending that they haven't yet seen through me?

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## EATING OUT

Don't be guided by Michelin stars, Jonathan Meades says, unless you want to sample the work of a Roux protégé

# Seeing stars with the Michelin Man

It's not true that in order to get a Michelin star you have to perform on a casting couch with the Michelin Man. It's obviously not true — there is, for a start, no casting couch large enough and, besides, the Michelin Man is not that sort of guy — his appetite is not gross, but he likes his flesh cooked, sauced and presented under a dome. No, what you have to do to get a Michelin star in this country is to be called Roux. Failing that you can always work for someone called Roux and then set up shop paying mimetic homage to this or that Roux. Then the Michelin Man will tip toe to your room and sprinkle stardust. Of course, anyone who subscribes to the Lottery Theory of Life will pooh-pooh this notion and suggest that the Michelin Man does nothing more than pick names out of a hat.

Either way, it's hardly worth setting worked up about the rather run results. This year Fatio has conspired Les Alouettes. I had not heard of this establishment before it was thus drawn to my notice. Nor had I been to Claygate, Essex, yes, Claygate, yes, Claygate, no. William Kent worked at Escher, Vanbrugh and Patrick Gwynne at Claydon — which makes this an architecturally fecund day out from The Smoke. A night out suggests that Claygate is the disadvantaged or challenged neighbourhood; but, none the less, like most places in Surrey there's a bit to look at. The bit round the tiny green, for instance, is a typically pleasing slice of outer-suburban self-delusion: it pretends to rusticity, villagehood, yokelism. It possesses the beguiling and quintessentially Surrey quality of looking like an England created on an Ealing backlot circa 1949. In that retrospective dream, the site of Les Alouettes would, no doubt, have been that of a tea-room (Google Withers as the Dangerous Waitress, Miles Malleon as the Vicar who's a cake buff).

But the world has changed; we have (mercifully) abandoned cake culture, we have got cooking (to an extent). We have got to the extent that even the classic French guide acknowledges it. Big deal. Les Alouettes is OK, but the proposition that it's among the 30 "best" restaurants in Britain is to be taken

lightly. It is, of course, immodest to make this point — but the fact is that about 12 times as many people will read this column as will buy the Michelin guide, a fact that should be a reassurance to customers and a solace to the scores of restaurants that Michelin overlooks or fails to understand or marks down because they are not colleague-friendly. Fatboy does minimal harm, is only taken seriously because of his French paternity... Dunlop, Goodyear, the London Rubber Company? Their gastronomic pronouncements are doubtless fascinating, but no one leaps about on hearing them. My advice is — but then it would be bound to be — trust the one you're spreading your breakfast over at this very moment.

Les Alouettes is a respectable joint for businessmen, for the colleague who has just climbed the ladder from his Carlton to his Senator, whose self-esteem is bolstered by deferential service — and service does not come much more deferential than at Les Alouettes. However, the attentiveness is at least amiable. But it is a bore to have your wine shoved in a bucket halfway across the room, it is a bore to be interrupted by a bottle-bearing hand each time you take the merest sip — the waiters act as if they're on commission and their eagerness to push you on to a second bottle is transparent. Still, this is what M. Michelin wants, he looks like a two-bottle man. We drank an acceptable grand cru Riesling and succumbed to the salesmanship to the extent of taking part with the cheese. The cheese comes from Olivier in Boulogne and is commendable. It is served in the English manner with cream crackers, water biscuits, etc; this digression from French custom may or may not be an admission that the

bread is diabolical. Otherwise the place's Frenchness is lavative. Which is just how M. Michelin likes things to be.

The chef did indeed work for a Roux brother — Michel, the patron of the Waterside Inn at Bray — and it's from him that he picked up the practice of using bananas as a vegetable, serving it with beef. That strikes me as belonging to dated novelty cooking and is, thankfully, atypical of Les Alouettes' repertoire which is generally characterized by caution; if there is such a thing as middle-of-the-road cooking, then it is to be found here. High competence and technical skill are abundant, but they are not allied to any obvious desire to excite the diner.

The preoccupation with eliminating rough edges means that certain dishes are wanly flavoured, a bit lacking in guts. And then there is the presentation — predictably there is an awful lot of it: potatoes are carved to look like tiny caps, already slender stalks of asparagus or spruce are cut along their length; perfectly rectangular batons of carrot and, maybe, turnip (impossible to tell, it was flavourless) decorate a dish of similarly flavoured scallops and langoustines. Does the Michelin Man eat with his eyes? He may not look that way, I agree, but the evidence of this place is that he does. Which is not to say that much of the cooking doesn't taste good — it does, in an unremarkable way. Brill and mullet are, like most of the dishes, done with a buttery sauce; salmon is roasted and served with a well-made tomato and sorrel sauce; the vegetables include beetroot, carrot purée and boiled potatoes in a vinegar-butter sauce. Two items rose above the mean standard; a very intense asparagus mousseline with another buttery sauce and a Catalan-style crème brûlée with prunes in it. The latter number was particularly fine.

Les Alouettes occupies a halfheartedly half-timbered Edwardian building of little distinction. Inside, it has been done out in a manner appropriate to its cooking — "tasteful", discreetly opulent, aspirantly classy. There are many features of curtain and tablecloth. The tables are well spaced. The lights are low. The prices are high; two will pay at least £90.

## LES ALOUETTES

★★★★★  
7 High Street, Claygate, Essex (0372 84882)  
£100. Major cards. Lunch Mon to Fri, dinner Mon to Sat.  
WAREHOUSE  
No stars  
Pooles Quay, Pooles, Dorset (0202 577238)  
£50. Major cards. Lunch Mon to Fri, dinner Mon to Sat.



And so to Pooles. On the way there I was astonished to spot M. Michelin sleeping rough under agricultural polythene beside a lagoon-block piggy. How he has fallen. Surrounded by the cylinder block of a defunct tractor and a pyramidal pile of asbestos tiles, he could easily have been taken for a load of old tyres. With hindsight I rather wish that I, too, had tipped down under the stars: the Warehouse on Pooles Quay provided me with one of the most memorably inept dinners I've eaten for some time. The place has a lot going for it — it's a handsomely executed conversion of early 19th-century premises; it is situated on the quay overlooking the busy harbour; the staff is willing and friendly.

Not all the cooking was dire, but most of it had tendencies in that direction. This, admittedly, is not signalled by the credits, all of which are good and praiseworthy. Their promise is of straightforward, fresh, robust dishes. They are deceivers. The chef appears to have been struck by a dose of *cuisine* imagination. He's probably the victim of a catering college. Dishes are pre-prepared, incompetently reheated. "Warm" oysters with rubbery pasta and creamy sauce arrived cold on a hot plate — they were, thus, not warm oysters. When they were served for the second time they were warm; this cavalier use of

(probably) a microwave oven strikes me as being potentially unsafe — but not, as it transpired, as unsafe as the many shards of oyster shell hidden in the pasta. Nor, for that matter, as unsafe as a lobster mousse which tasted of Brohat, i.e. of the ammonia that is released when crustaceans shells are boiled for several hours. This disgusting dish was returned and was, quite properly, not charged for. A fish soup was terrible, too — an ochreous farrago of scales, bone and pepper. Dover sole was merely not as fresh as one might wish — filets of the fish were fancily curled like a Forties hair-do or a Viennese loaf. A smoked salmon soufflé was cleverly baked in filo pastry, but had no flavour of the specified fish; rather, it was sour and overpeppery. So might I go on. The puddings are not entirely bad. I ate a crème brûlée with an industrial strength crust — the waiter said: "The chef's only finished cooking those off today." Presumably he had "cooked off" the other puddings during the previous week. This same waiter removed a finger bowl, saying: "That'll go in the stockpot." I believed him. The management was effectively apologetic about the mishaps. The wines were not greedily priced, the atmosphere is congenial. But take your own food. If you risk the house's you'll pay about £60 for two.

## DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than service and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, too. In the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

### INDIAN

Copper Chimney  
19 Heddon Street, London W1 (01-492 8024)  
★★★★★  
The service is frightful — fustian, off-hand, unbelievably sluggish. The cooking is good: quality ingredients, a splendid dash of black beans; a vindaloo which has nothing but throat-ripping properties and a hot and spicy curry. The food is of the name; clear with chicken; lamb; beef. The cocktails are to be avoided. With beer or beer, £25.

Great Nepalese  
49 Grosvenor Street, London W1 (01-388 6737/6835)  
★★★★★  
The cooking is of exceptional quality: barbecued lamb with garlic and coriander, dash of black beans, cauliflower, coriander pickle, mango chutney, £25.

Lal Gita  
117 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-387 4570)  
★★★★★  
Vanguard of new wave Indian cooking — good quality ingredients, "clean" tastes, herbs as much in evidence as spices. Fine king prawn masala and char-grilled chicken, well marinated meats, £20.

### HAMPSTEAD

Carpaccio  
118 Heath Street, London NW3 (01-492 8024)  
★★★★★  
French set menu place of a standard far superior to the majority of its kind. The service is less than smooth and the premises too small. Some of the cooking is good — notably beef ribs, puddings such as pear tart and an unlikely sounding sorbet of lemon and parsley. Everything comes in gargantuan portions, £20.

Zehns  
83 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 (01-794 7863/7864)  
★★★★★  
The best Chinese cooking, very high prices and very tiny portions. But the cooking is sometimes quite inventive and tastefully well executed — beef with mushrooms and soy, scallops with ginger, deep-fried pork crackling, raw salmon and scallops with an odd sauce of soy and English mustard. About £80 to £20, much more if you drink.

Kenya's  
70 Heath Street, London NW3 (01-492 8072)  
★★★★★  
Cajun restaurant with loud cajun music. A good cocktail, good beer, and some good cooking. Most dishes taste pretty much the same, i.e. hot and aggressive, £20.

7 Pond Street  
7 Pond Street, London NW3 (01-492 1641)  
★★★★★  
A comfortable basement with a decent feel to it. The cooking is both in sources and standards. The Scottish haddock and potato soup called Cullen Skink is a great success, and so is a nicely judged dish of veal with noodles. Some are less welcome. Good wine, £20.

Kenya's  
38 Downshire Hill, London NW3 (01-435 1486/3544)  
★★★★★  
Formal and rather tense service; dining-rooms that are like a stage set of a library. Subtle and nicely balanced cooking: a dish with a herb crust and red wine sauce, beef fillet with cauliflower and turnips, ravioli of cauliflower and parsley, sole with a sauce of two oysters. The dishes are of a kind that are rarely found save in hotels. Decent wine list with no bargains, £20.

### SUSSEX

Lychgates  
66 Church Street, Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex (0424 212193)  
★★★★★  
Small and homely restaurant in part of a Victorian house in a pretty street of weather-boarded buildings. Accomplished and well-judged cooking, amiable service. The menu is very understated — when it says lamb casserole you get just that, but done with a sureness of touch that is remarkable. Impressive starters, delicious sweets. There's nothing very notable to drink. The prices are most reasonable, £25-£40.

La Vieille Auberge  
27 High Street, Battle, East Sussex (0424 65171)  
★★★★★  
The cooking is almost, but not quite, held by its own oven. Lamb with a tart of lemon's kidney and leeks, ravioli of crab-broth suggest a desire to do a little more than the kitchen is perhaps capable of, £25.

Gordon Restaurant  
Gatwick Hilton, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex (0293 518080)  
★★★★★  
A Hilton hotel in the middle of an airport with a serious restaurant. The cooking is highly accomplished — fresh, thin noodles with sweetbreads, chicken and black truffle; a dish with cauliflower purée, marinated pumpkin. Burgundy chicken, interesting wine, including a drinkable Pinot Noir d'Alsace. Competent and friendly service — hardly any English music. About £80 to £20, much more if you drink.

## RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE

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## DRINK

# Soviet secrets for sale

"IT COULD have been a hoax... but I knew as soon as I entered the cellar and took one sniff that we had hit gold." Master of Wine David Molyneux-Berry clearly views his discovery of the tsars' most important Russian imperial wine cellar in much the same manner as Carter viewed Tutankhamun's tomb. However, Tut's treasures did not come up at auction. On Monday 13,000 bottles of the tsars' liquid gold go on sale at Sotheby's, where they are expected to sell for £30 upwards.

Mr Molyneux-Berry, the head of Sotheby's wine department, first heard about the Massandra collection, as this tsars' cellar is known, 15 years ago. But he had dismissed the tale, and the list of fabled Russian imperial wines and vineyards with names such as 1891 Massandra Malaga, 1905 Livadia White Muscat and 1917 Ai-Danil Tokay, as a rumour. After Sotheby's sale of contemporary art held two years ago in Moscow, the Massandra Collection was brought to Mr Molyneux-Berry's attention again — this time by the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture. Clearly the collection was no hoax.

Bowed over by the thought of wines that had been made for the Russian imperial court, not just for the last tsar, Nicolas II, but for his father and grandfather too, Mr Molyneux-Berry paid three visits to the Crimea to study the collection. Even now, little is known about the tsars' cellars and vineyards, dotted along the southern Crimean coast.

Mr Molyneux-Berry soon learned that Massandra in the Crimea, just to the north of Yalta and close to the imperial summer palace at Livadia, was the traditional viticultural headquarters for that part of Russia. Surprisingly, production continued under Stalin, long after the execution of the imperial family.

## Make a bid for the liquid treasures of imperial Russia, Jane MacQuitty writes



successful at producing table wines in the Crimea's warmth, he now the less mastered the "champagne" method, and when the Tsar Nicolas II appointed him as Massandra's winemaker in the late 1890s he had already won a medal at the 1900 Grand Prix in Paris for his Russian "champagne". The Russian court, and by all accounts the tsars too, were noted for their sweet tooth, and Massandra's winemakers were sent to the great dessert wine and fortified wine centres of Europe to learn their techniques.

Back home in Russia, the same methods were applied to Russian grapes grown in Crimean soil. It is these Russian imperial wines that are on sale at Sotheby's on Monday.

Given the various false wine

collections of supposedly great antiquity that have surfaced in recent years, the real question is whether the Massandra collection is genuine. After extensive testing and questioning of the Soviets, Mr Molyneux-Berry is convinced that it is. And, having tested six of the collection, I think I am too. Perhaps the most important evidence endorsing the Massandra collection, and the wines, of which the oldest is a 1775 bottle of Spanish sherry, is that it has been well documented since its inception.

Sell until the 1917 revolution, and hidden behind, bricked-up walls in the struggles afterwards, the collection has been moved only once in its life, immediately prior to the Nazis' arrival in 1941, and brought back again when they had gone in 1944.

Of the six Massandra wines I tasted, the best by far was the 1905 Livadia White Muscat, whose unusual mint and peppermint scent led on to an amazing, rich, luscious, sweet, minty-grapey taste. I was also impressed by the 1914 Massandra Malaga, whose deep red-brown hue and venerable yellow rim had a splendid, concentrated, burnt caramel taste, and, again, an extraordinary bouquet, reminiscent of flowers, peaches, wax, and cherries and plums too.

Less enchanting was the musty 1935 Gursat Rose Muscat, and the 1941-like 1945 South Coast Red Port. Mr Molyneux-Berry has had better bottles of both, and, like all of the wines, those in the Massandra collection will vary from bottle to bottle. However, although not in the same league as the older wines, there was no mistaking the class present in the 1936 Colerain Sauvignon, White Port with its rancid, cherry-like style, and the 1931 Ai-Danil Tokay, with its heady, caramelized character.

And why are the Russians selling this national treasure? Because, like everyone else, they need money — in this case, to buy new equipment for Massandra.

The Massandra Collection takes place on Monday at 10.30am and 2.30pm in the Large Gallery, Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1.

© Jane MacQuitty's vineyard holidays have been held every year.



## DISCOVERY

## Final frames in a family album

Next Thursday Sotheby's will auction one of the most fascinating historical finds of the century. The "Sokolov Archives", the documentation of the murder of the Russian Imperial family, were compiled by Nikolai Sokolov, for the White Armies after the capture of Ekaterinburg, the town in the Urals where the Romanovs died. The auction also includes letters, personal belongings and photographs.

There is, however, one extraordinary collection that will not be in this sale.

I came upon it a month or so ago in Tobolsk, Siberia, where Alexander Krensky, the head of the Russian government after the February Revolution, sent the Tsar and his family in August 1917.

Here the Imperial family was lodged in the former governor's residence, a small mansion with large, airy rooms, and a small park. And if, by comparison with the splendour of the Romanov palaces, their life here was boring and constrained, their first three months in Tobolsk still allowed them comparative freedom and dignity. November, when Bolshevik soldiers were dispatched to guard the revolution's most embarrassing prisoners, brought the beginning of real imprisonment, which culminated, in 1918, with the removal of the Tsar, his wife and their daughters, Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, and son Alexis, to Ekaterinburg, where, in July, they were shot.

Today in Tobolsk there is a small museum in which a minute space is dedicated to the Romanovs. "It interests our children," said the young guide. "They love princesses. And the few Americans who have come here on business all ask about the Tsar." I asked if there was anything else. Reluctantly she admitted there was one more item, but it was kept under lock and key "downstairs". What was it? "An album," she said. "It is said to have belonged to one of the guards."

After consultation with the museum director, I was allowed to see the album in a discreet side room, where it was brought, in its box and wrapping, and later photographer Sergey Hatzov made copies. It contained a touching record of the Imperial family's last months of hope in their summer palace near St Petersburg and in Tobolsk.

We see two of the archduchesses earnestly wheeling a water barrel to the kitchen garden they had planted. We see the same two girls rowing, looking bored; we can almost hear the Empress telling them to get some exercise. Three of the girls stand, in identical white clothes, near a cabbage patch, one of them loosely, even forlornly, holding a little bunch of flowers. Why, one wonders, do they look so tense? The fully grown cabbages indicate the time of year: did they know the moment was close when they would be sent 1,800 miles away from their home? The photographer is the fourth archduchess, Maria. If the album "belonged" to a guard, it was because he stole it before the family was removed from Tobolsk. The warmest, most enchanting picture is of 16-year-old Anastasia playing the fool — as she apparently often did to cheer up the family — with her young brother delighted by her antics. He is carefully putting a toe in the water, while she, laughing into the camera, balances perilously backwards. They are — almost symbolically for those of us who know what was to happen to them — on a plank.

Gitta Sereny

Imperial Russian wives, page 36



Portraits of the Romanov family: Tsar Nicholas II saws wood with the children's Swiss tutor, Pierre Gilliard, left, in Tobolsk; and three of the sisters, from left, Tatiana, Anastasia and Olga



Last months of hope for the doomed Imperial children: Tatiana, left, and Anastasia go boating; Anastasia entertains Tsarevich Alexis; Maria, left, and Anastasia wheel a water barrel



## CAMPUS

## The foolishness of youth

Although the Conservative Party has been going through difficulties recently, at the undergraduate level there seem to be many more deep-rooted insecurities and worries.

In Oxford the Conservative Party split into two parts at the time of the student union elections. The group calling itself the Democratic Conservatives, finally unable to stomach what it saw as the extremism of the official Conservatives, stood for election and trounced its official counterpart in the poll.

In the Young Conservatives membership has fallen from 250,000 in the late 1950s to about 6,000 now. The organization has become discredited because of having what is perceived as a right-wing clique in control. Political debate at the national student level, within the party, is a joke. At a recent conference in the House of Commons, a discussion on student unions degenerated into a slanging match, with the Tory Reform Group being accused of being Marxist and the Conservative Collegiate Forum of being fascist. Both accusations are equally nonsensical and make student Tory politics look ridiculous.

Most worrying of all is the extremism and impracticality of the fringe, which can seem to be the main stream. At a recent joint conference on privatization of the Wessex area Conservative Collegiate Forum and Young Conservatives — which might reasonably be expected to be the progenitors of orthodox Conservative political thought and activity — a number of extraordinary motions were passed which would cause any moderate Tory to blench. The conference voted to privatize money, education, health care and emergency services; apparently motions to privatize the Army and the Courts were only narrowly defeated.

Why have the youthful Tories made such a hash of affairs? In Oxford the cause of trouble is, strangely enough, the success of the Prime

## Why are the Young Conservatives making such a hash of things?



Minister. Her stamp is on the Oxford University Conservative Association because she has been successfully in office for such a long time, making it an organization which is slavishly devoted to her. Any questioning of government policy is seen as some kind of heresy. Indeed, at one meeting last term, the president of OUCA accused someone of being a Socialist for arguing in favour of voluntary membership of the National Union of Students, because that is not the official party line. It was this narrow-mindedness that led to the divide. Admirers of the Prime Minister had much sympathy for the Democratic Conservatives, not for what they said, but because they had the courage to challenge the view that it was treacherous to question her.

The problems of the Young Conservatives go much deeper. The great battles that were fought for many years to keep out the "far right" marginalized the whole organization. All the stories of secret bank accounts, cutting off telephones and bugging rooms made the YCs look like retarded prep-school children rather than the nation's future leaders.

The CCF, on the other hand, was born to cause trouble. It replaced the notoriously unsavoury Federation of Conservative Students and inherited some of its people. It is, in some ways, a play-pen for the loony right, in the hope that they will be stuck in there long enough to prevent them causing trouble elsewhere.

Neil Kinnock has made the Labour Party take some unpleasant medicine which has

removed its fanatics. Perhaps it is time the Tories expurgated their youth movement in the same way.

A RECENT survey of 6,000 people aged between 16 and 19 claims to reveal that Britain is not going to have many entrepreneurs. This was deduced partly from the information that only 6 per cent wanted to bear responsibility, and a mere 5 per cent believed they could use their initiative.

One of the "experts" analysing these results commented: "Entrepreneurship is not for these youngsters. It is quite depressing that a lot of them are being turned out without much ambition."

This is very much in line with the current fashion that everyone ought to be an entrepreneur with enormous ambition. It shows how foolish fashion is. It only requires a moment's thought to realize what a bad idea it would be if everyone wished to be an entrepreneur.

A successful entrepreneur will be an employer rather than an employee. This means that, in a nation of entrepreneurs, either all will be self-employed with no additional staff, or a few will succeed and the majority will be disappointed failures.

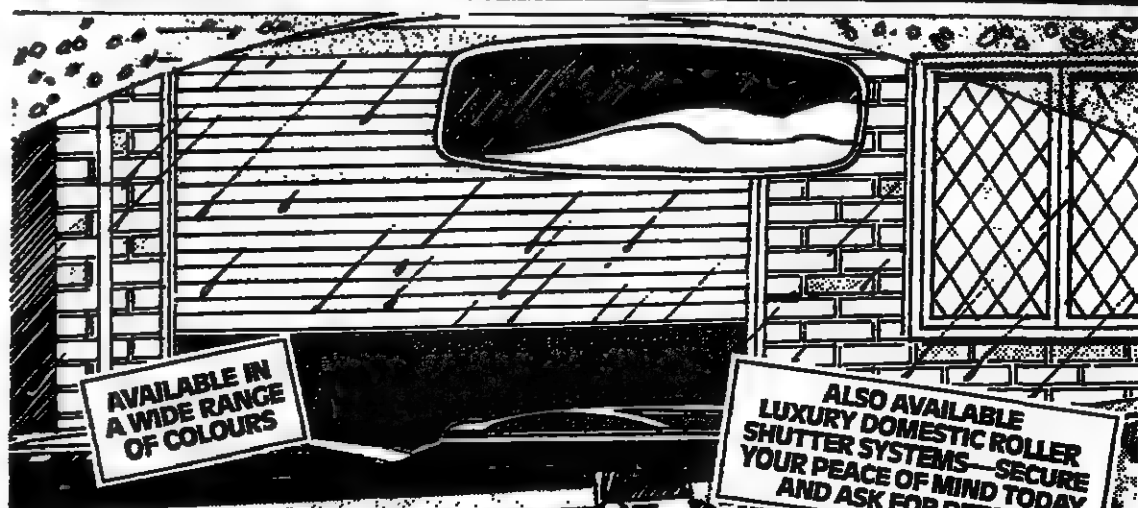
As it seems natural to hope that this country will be prosperous and contented, it would be more sensible to desire for it a limited number of ambitious people. If everyone wanted to be an entrepreneur and succeeded, businesses would be on such a small scale that the nation would not prosper; if all tried and most failed, it would not be content.

Therefore, what is needed is a small number of ambitious people who will provide the jobs and security that the overwhelming majority want. As this is what the survey seems to indicate, it is not in the least depressing, but bodes well for the future.

Jacob Rees-Mogg  
The author is an undergraduate at Trinity College, Oxford.

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**BOOKS**  
Diamond from the club  
Curtis  
Mama Sings

stance that was to surface later. Having avoided in both *Manhattan Transfer* and *The Americans* the U.S.A. trilogy, after being a character in Passov's masterpiece, he never invented himself again. He did not even invent himself as a stunted regionalism. He did not altogether like to think of himself, as he himself says in a short introduction to his memoirs - of himself as "strange solitary crazy Gaiety." He preferred to say "schizoid" and began with his discharged him in 1943 and was waiting with the briefest tracing, almost faint, and of course whatever the exact diagnosis was, it was certainly in his mind some consequence much of a hurry for southern America.

He made his own separate politics to peace, named a generation, however, "Beat," and wrote one of the first novel *On the subject of the Beat*.

**No.**  
**T**

Have you been



## THE TIMES COOK

## Open days in Lisbon

As barbecues  
come back into  
the open,  
heralding the  
arrival of spring,  
Frances Bissell  
recalls her  
favourite  
Portuguese recipes

The recent balmy weather has brought out the barbecues. A whole of charcoal immediately transports me to the steep, narrow streets of the Alfama and the Bairro Alto, the old quarters of Lisbon, which face one another on opposite hillsides above the River Tagus. With the spring, life begins to be lived outdoors again, and that includes cooking over small charcoal braziers. More often than not, fat sardines are grilled as a prelude to lunch or dinner.

Even after 20 years of visiting Lisbon, we still find places new to us in the heart of the city. Off the Rossio, in the Rua dos Sapateiros, is a beautiful art nouveau cafe, the Leitaria e Confeitaria, decorated with fine azulejos depicting various dairy scenes.

There are marvellous food shops and restaurants here too, but perhaps the best place to buy Portuguese specialties is Celeiro, in a street running parallel to the Rossio, on the right as you face the water. Here we stock up with fine Portuguese extra virgin olive oil, smoked sardines canned in olive oil, prunes and green pears from Elvas, almonds from the Algarve, pine nuts and Brazilian arrowroot.

The main "food" street for me, however, is Rua das Portas de Santo Antão, for its food shops, bars and restaurants. Gambirino, an elegant bar-restaurant, is a good place to stop for a glass of chilled white port and a handful of fresh almonds. At the top of the street is the Casa Solar dos Presuntos, one of the Lisbonese favourite restaurants. The chef, like all good Portuguese chefs, is from "the North". I have been told he was taken to Mexico by the Portuguese national football team when they played in the World Cup. Newspaper reports of the game were so full of details about the olive oil the team took with them as their progress in the tournament.

Today's recipes are ones that I have collected over the years, based on the simple yet immensely tasty dishes we have enjoyed in the small restaurants in the Bairro Alto and the Alfama. The stuffed squid recipe sounds much more difficult than it is. In fact, it takes me longer to write about it than it does to



DIANA LEONARDI

actually clean the squid. I have had various versions, too. Sometimes the squid is stuffed with bread crumbs, sometimes with rice. I prefer the looser texture the rice gives. Ham, garlic, peas, chopped tomatoes, spring onions, all or some of these can be mixed with the rice. What is essential, though, is a really fruity, flavoured extra virgin olive oil and, if possible, coriander leaves, indispensable if you want to capture the real flavours of Portugal.

The rabbit and red wine recipe is one from the North of Portugal, but since so many good chefs, it seems, are from there, it is not surprising to come across it in Lisbon restaurants. This is the way that lamprey is cooked too, and I have also cooked conger eel in a similar fashion, but you need to give the rice some cooking before you put the fish in the pot.

The cake recipe is the nearest I could get to one served by Adelaide, who cooked a marvellous farmhouse lunch when we visited the Herdade de Esporão, a huge wine and olive estate in the Alentejo, near Reguengo de Monsaraz, where wine has been produced since Phoenician times. We finally tore ourselves away from the charms of the 1987 Esporão, of which the wine-maker Luis Duarte is so proud, to sample Adelaide's cake and ask her about it. "Well, it is an ordinary cake," she told us - butter, eggs, sugar, flour and more butter and sugar for the sauce. It is the richest, sweetest cake I have ever tasted. Everyone asked for seconds.

Having seen fresh sardines at my local fishmongers this weekend, it was very tempting to go and join the queues of those buying barbecue equipment from the local hardware shop.

**Grilled sardines**  
(serves 1 or 2 fish per person)  
fresh sardines  
extra virgin olive oil  
1 lemon  
salt, pepper  
bay leaves

Scale the fish, and gut them if you wish. Brush with olive oil, squeeze on a few drops of lemon juice, and salt and pepper them lightly. Arrange them on a grill, and tuck bay leaves between them. Have the grill hot, and grill the sardines on both sides, turning them carefully, for 10 to 15 minutes in all, depending on the thickness. I like to serve them with olives, rings of raw onion and lemon wedges, or with a tomato salad. Serve with plenty of bread to help down any tiny bones.

**Stuffed squid**  
(serves 4 to 5)  
18-20 squid, about 4in/10cm long  
3-4tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped  
3 garlic cloves, crushed  
2 ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped  
8oz/230g cooked rice  
½pt dry white wine  
seasoning

Clean the squid at the sink. Tip them all into a colander and rinse them. One at a time, holding the body of the squid in one hand, pull the head (the tentacle end) off with the other hand. Cut the tentacles off and set aside. Now deal with the body. Peel off the mottled skin and remove the two triangular flaps. Put these with the tentacles. Feed inside the cavity, and remove the "backbone", which looks like a strip of soft, clear Perspex. Then

squeeze the cavity like a tube of toothpaste to remove anything left inside. Rinse and set aside. Continue with the next, and so on, until you have a pile of white pockets waiting to be stuffed. Chop the tentacles and the flaps.

Heat a tablespoon of olive oil in a frying pan, and cook the onion in the oil for a few minutes. Then add the chopped tentacles, flaps and garlic. Stir until the squid becomes opaque. At this point, add the chopped tomatoes, the seasoning, some of the herbs and the cooked rice. Mix in and remove from the heat. Allow to cool. Spoon the rice mixture into the squid, until loosely stuffed. Secure the end with a cocktail stick or toothpick.

Butter or oil a flat ovenproof dish, and arrange the stuffed squid in a single layer. Pour the wine over the squid, and trickle the rest of the olive oil on top. Cover with foil or a rubber paper, and bake in the middle of a pre-heated oven, 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4, for about 25 minutes.

Serve, sprinkled with more fresh herbs, straight from the baking dish, with a green salad to accompany it.

**Baked rabbit and rice in red wine**  
(serves 6 to 8)  
2lb/900g rabbit joints  
pinch of cinnamon  
pinch of nutmeg  
1 large onion  
2tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
2 rashers smoked streaky bacon  
2tbsp port  
2tbsp red wine vinegar  
1lb/455g rice  
1 bottle/750ml good dry red wine  
1 bay leaf  
1tsp peppercorns  
9floz/250ml chicken stock or water

To make the caramel, put the three ingredients in a saucepan, and heat gently until the sugar has melted. Bring to the boil, stirring continuously, and boil for seven minutes. Away from the heat, beat the caramel to thicken it. Sandwich the two cakes with some of the caramel and chopped walnuts. Pour the rest of the caramel over the top of the cake, and decorate with walnut halves.

Wipe the rabbit joints, lightly season them with cinnamon and nutmeg and put to one side. Peel and slice the onion and fry it in the olive oil in a large heavy casserole. Remove and discard the rind from the bacon, cut it into matchstick-sized pieces, and fry with the onion. Push these ingredients to one side, and fry the pieces of rabbit until browned. Remove everything from the casserole, and put to one side while you deglaze it with the port and wine vinegar, adding a little water if necessary to get up all the cooking residues on the bottom. Put the rice in the casserole, pour in the red wine, and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat, and put in the rabbit pieces, onion and bacon bits, as well as the bay leaf and peppercorns. Pour on the chicken stock, bring back to the boil, stir once, and cover and cook in a moderate oven for 1½ hours, or until the meat is tender and the rice is cooked.

Note: This recipe can also be adapted to chicken and duckling.

**Caramel walnut cakes**  
6oz/170g unsalted butter  
¼lb/110g light muscovado sugar  
3 eggs, separated  
2tbsp golden syrup  
8tbsp full cream milk  
¼lb/230g self-raising flour  
pinch of salt  
for the caramel filling and topping  
¼lb/340g light muscovado sugar  
4-6tbsp single cream  
2oz/60g unsalted butter  
¼lb/110g walnut halves

Butter two 8in/20.5cm sandwich tins, and line with greaseproof paper. Cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks, one at a time to prevent them from curdling, sprinkle on some of the measured quantity of flour, and mix it thoroughly after the addition of each egg yolk. Mix in the syrup and milk, and then fold in flour and salt. Whisk the egg whites to peaks, and then gently fold them into the cake batter with a metal spoon. Divide the mixture between the cake tins and level the surface with the back of a spoon. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for about 30 to 35 minutes. Test by inserting a warmed skewer, which should emerge clean if the cakes are cooked through. Remove from the tin and cool on wire racks. The cakes, when cold, can be stored in an airtight container and assembled the next day.

To make the caramel, put the three ingredients in a saucepan, and heat gently until the sugar has melted. Bring to the boil, stirring continuously, and boil for seven minutes. Away from the heat, beat the caramel to thicken it. Sandwich the two cakes with some of the caramel and chopped walnuts. Pour the rest of the caramel over the top of the cake, and decorate with walnut halves.

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## Learning processes

AS WITH most skills, cooking is best learnt through hands-on experience, working with a teacher who is more experienced than you. You learn to cook with your senses; you smell when the oil is hot, taste the difference between raw flour and cooked flour in a sauce.

I have listed below those courses that I would happily attend. In two cases, I have an interest to declare: on October 31 I shall be cooking at Farthinghoe, and from July 9-11 I shall be teaching at Ballymaloe.

**Lerth School of Food and Wine:** 21 St Alban's Grove, London W8 5BP (01-225 0177). Principal: Caroline Waldegrave. A variety of courses including, for £250, a one-week course on low-fat cookery from June 25-29 and, from July 2, one-day demonstrations including Italian cookery and vegetarian cooking (£45 per day).

**Cookery at the Grange:** The Grange, Whitley Vineyard, Whitley, Frome, Somerset BA11 3LA (037 384 579). Principal: Jane Crosswell-Jones. The prospectus includes a full week's residential, which costs £920 for residents and £820 for non-residents, and four-day courses costing from £228. **Catherine Blakeley's Cookery Courses:** Arlington House, Station Road, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7EN (0522 812852). Principal: Catherine Blakeley. One-day demonstration £18, weekend residential courses £85, and mid-week residential courses £175. **Farthinghoe Fine Wine and Food:** The Old Rectory, Old Lane, Farthinghoe, Leicestershire, NN13 5NZ (0295 710018). Principal: Nicola Cox. One-day demonstrations on a wide variety of topics including vegetarian cookery and using the microwave (£25.50). Courses start again in the autumn.

**The Ballymaloe Cookery School:** Kinloch, Shanagarry, County Cork, Republic of Ireland (353 21646 785). Principal: Darina Allen. Apart from appearances by guest cooks, the courses are based on the Ballymaloe style of cooking, using the abundant fresh produce of that corner of the republic. Prices range from £65 for the one-day Christmas cooking courses, to £2,750 for the 12-week certificate course.

**Vacances Culinaires, Domaine Les Laurons:** 83570 Entrecaesteaux (010 33 9404 4977). Principal: Sarah Beerbohm. One-week cooking holidays in the heart of Provence, where you are taught to make the classic dishes of Provençal cuisine. The course includes some meals at local restaurants and a visit to a busy restaurant kitchen. The cost is £845, sharing a double room, not including travel to Provence.

**Les Ecoles Roger Vergé:** Ecoles de Nice, Hotel Beau Rivage, 06300 Nice, and Ecoles de Mougins, Restaurant L'Amendou, 06250 Mougins (010 33 93 783570). A one-week course, for about £157, includes daily classes, a visit to the market, and a "cuisine du marché" class, all based on Roger Vergé's *cuisine de soleil*, a taste of Provence. Visitors to the area can also join two-hour cooking classes, held every afternoon and Saturday morning, by booking 48 hours in advance.

F. B.

## FOOD

Supermarkets hope to recapture the flavour of the pre-prepackaged meat era, Charles Hennessy writes

## One man's meat...

Cheer up! Stress ruins the crackling.



There was a time when to shop for meat was to take part in some staccato rite. Under a sign that read, in neo-Gothic lettering, Family Stevens Butcher, you stepped, on sawdust, into an arena furnished with worn scrubbed wood, marble, tiles, and bald, cold carcasses hanging from hooks. When those ran out, more were brought from behind a door as solid and important as you'd find anywhere outside a bank vault. It was a place of intricate surgery performed by ruddy-faced men with flashing dangerous knives.

Such places still exist, but mostly we buy our meat where we buy everything else - supermarkets - and, like everything else in supermarkets, it comes film-wrapped in handy trays, chilled instead of *chambre*. It is hardly surprising if the conversion causes that the stuff, somehow, doesn't taste the same; that chops you've seen chopped are somehow flatter.

Progress has been made since the days when all supermarket meat, like supermarket tomatoes, looked too red, too fresh, too shiny and tasted of nothing much. English cuts began to give way to immer, daintier French translations and foreign exotica such as *noisettes d'agneau* and *pauillettes de veau* appeared alongside fat-wrapped string-tied *ris de veau*.

What were the secrets that allowed the traditional high street butcher to produce tender, juicy, tasty meat? Living across the road from a flagship Sainsbury, I have been well placed to observe that company's efforts to reintroduce something of what we're pretty sure we used to find at Mr Stevens (and Son).

First, those French cuts became Gourmet Cuts, priced somewhat higher than your ordinary Anglo-Saxon variety. Then, a couple of years ago, something called Traditional Beef made its appearance on the shelves. This turns out to

be the result of more than a year's effort by Sainsbury, employing the skills of a "meat technologist", to reproduce the methodology of the traditional butcher on the scale demanded by mass marketing.

The first key to the secret, to nobody's great surprise, was found in the raw material. Sainsbury worked closely with suppliers, agreeing on detailed specifications and working to improve the basic product. Then it rediscovered ageing, or maturing. Meat hung on the bone is more tender, more toothsome. Succulence in meat, they say, comes only

with ageing. Cut meat too early and what you get, inevitably, is tough meat, however good the original carcass. You have to have some bite in a piece of meat, of course: "tenderness with texture" is the stirring battle-cry. You can, in fact, induce tenderness in meat by heating the daylights out of it, but in doing so you destroy the connecting tissues that give it its character. Sainsbury's Traditional Beef is aged for two weeks on the bone and one week in the package before going onto the shelves. More recently introduced, its Tenderloin Pork and Lamb are tenderized by

the same methods, using rather shorter maturing times. Safeways is on the same tack and agrees with the optimum maturing time - 14 to 21 days - but not on the method. Tests reveal, it claims, that there is no perceptible difference in flavour or tenderness between meat matured on or off the bone, so they mature in the pack. A Safeways innovation, now offered in 10 stores, is organic beef and lamb. I've tried the beef and it is very palatable.

Wainrose, too, has been going backwards to make progress, and the result is Traditional English Pork. It starts with the farmers and breeders, who say they rear their pigs in small peer groups, in the field or in housing that provides natural conditions of daylight, fresh air and abundant straw. There are specialists to conduct the pigs to the chop with the minimum of stress, cushioning the final blow and ensuring the tenderness of the meat, which is affected by muscular tension.

What supermarkets have over the small shop, we're told, is the price advantage that comes with bulk buying, huge markets and all that. Leg of lamb in my local Sainsbury last week cost from £2.78 to £2.92; at traditional Rudds, nearby in Kensington, it was a mere £2.20. And chunk chops at £4.26 compared with £3.30. Oh well, that's just me having my traditional beef.

Britain as well as it does in continental Europe or North America. It has not taken off like cherry tomatoes or Little Gem lettuce (both pioneered as commercial propositions by Marks & Spencer). That, Mr Ward thinks, is because chichory is still too dry and bitter for the British palate.

The answer, perhaps, is that quite a few Britons have yet to master the art of providing salad dressings worthy of the salads now available. We have come a long way from plain lettuce with salad cream.

Robin Young

## Red, white and green

red endive of Verona, which resembles a dark red lettuce. In radicchio there is already a variegated variety, the Castelfranco, its green leaves patterned with red spots and streaks.

Radicchio is grown from seed and harvested. The white chichory we buy is treated differently. It is grown from seed in an open field to produce a root, which is then lifted and stored, before

growth is started again, in the dark. The new blanched shoot which the root then produces is the "chichon", which we eat.

The red chichory - bred by the Dutch by crossing radicchio with "witloof" (white leaf) chichory - is grown in the chichon method, and the heads have the same tightly rolled, cigar-like tip as chichory. The leaves, though, are fringed with bright red.

Red chichory costs more.

That, says Graham Ward, the managing director of Home Grown Salads, which is marketing it, is because the variety does not yet give shoots of consistently even size. "You have to throw half the market wants," he says.

In Britain that means chichons of about 3-4oz each. On the Continent you can see chichons twice that size. Chichory does not sell in

## Sounding out the cornets

ABOUT the best that can be said of most of the £648 million worth of ice-creams sold in Britain during 1989 is that they were sweet and cold. Ice-cream? The description is legal, but hardly honest. Most of the products sold in Britain are made from vegetable fats and contain little or no dairy produce. When Britain joined the EC in 1975, a special dispensation was granted so that our manufacturers could continue to call their non-dairy products ice-cream.

On May 9 a new ice-cream parlour will open in London. Haggen-Dazs on the Square will bring one of America's favourite top-quality ice-creams to Leicester Square, in a high-class parlour fitted out at a cost of £500,000.

When challenged to compare the company's product with their own vanilla ice cream, Britain's top chefs voted Haggen-Dazs their second favourite. The winning ice-cream was made by Beth Coventry, the chef at Green's Restaurant, London SW1. At the time of tasting, however, the American-made ice cream was about two months old and the other ices had been made that day. The secret of its success, says managing director Tim Meadow-Smith, is in the ingredients - fresh cream, fresh skimmed milk, egg yolks, raw cane sugar, with nothing else added.

The parlour will offer 18 flavours of ice-cream and frozen cream bars dipped in Belgian chocolate then rolled in one of eight toppings, such as roasted almonds or toffee-coated crisped rice. At about £1.70 for the bars and £1 for cones or cups (take-away prices), the product is not cheap.

Six years ago the Milk Marketing Board hit on the idea that farmers should turn their surplus milk into ice-cream. Loseley had already

paved the way. In 1968, the company began making cheese from skimmed milk left over after the cream had been removed. It progressed to yoghurt, and then to ice-cream. Now it produces 6 million litres of dairy ice-cream every year. As the public becomes increasingly health conscious, the Loseley policy of adding no artificial preservatives has become an important selling point. The freshness of the ingredients is another. At Charles Burrell's Castle Dairy, near Horsham, Sussex, ice-cream is produced in a 250-year-old barn, lined with plastic-coated steel and insulated to form a modern plant of the highest standards. It is only a few steps from the bay where his cows are milked.

In the summer of 1989, manufacturers of real dairy ice-cream recorded average sales increases of 40 per cent. Since sales of non-dairy ice-cream rose by only 8 per cent, it appears that customers are willing to pay that little bit extra for "the real thing".

Farmers often begin producing ice-cream as a means of increasing the value of their milk, and then become passionately involved.

These days, Lyons Maid makes 1.5 million litres of Baskin-Robbins ice-cream under licence from the American parent company. Dayvilles came to Britain in 1975 and pioneered American-style ice-cream parlours, selling 31 flavours.

Since a management buy-out in 1985, like Baskin-Robbins, Dayvilles is again opening ice-cream parlours all around Britain, inspired by the recent success of the industry. Once ice-cream was considered a summer treat for children, but last year research revealed that, for the first time, adults are the main consumers.

Geraldine Ranson



PETITE LIQUEUR is definitely a bridge too far.

After our crew had been well and truly beaten the chips and I with our choppers in bar of course went for a consolation shop-up at the Savoy Grill.

Needless to say a fine time was had by all. Especially when Squiffy Birchcliffe strung from the CHANDLER and landed head first on the street.

Philippa and I, however, were a little more reserved in our conduct and tucked at our meal with a bottle of ICY COLD Petite Liqueur.

Al, that unmistakable blend of Bordeaux wines and fine old COGNAC, blending from my tongue, only lingering taste of the Thames.

THINK PUTH. Petite Liqueur. From the house of Moët & Chandon.

PETITE LIQUEUR  
MOËT & CHANDON







## Diamond from the club

CRIME

arcel Berlins

Crime Club (not really a newsletter for aficionados started in 1930, at the detective story's 25th birthday) is a club where Agatha Christie and other writers of the genre were among its early members. It has continued to be one of the best crime journals ever since.

of Diamonds (Collins, £12.95) celebrates the Crime Club's jubilee with a splendid collection of short stories, written by 13 of its stable of authors, which Robert Barnard, Sarah L. Mike Ripley, John M. E. Elzabeth, and others with Collins for more than 50 books.

id Hill, Collins's current on a stunning form in the e of the Yorkshire police Superintendent. Detective (ed Dee-ell) and Inspector at the beginning of Bones lence (Collins, £12.95) as returned moodily from cease, even more sensitive stoning than before. The alziel, retching into a fen a drinking bout, thinks a murder, and pursues, a usual combination of mess and moon. He's also a bizarre suicide letter; presentation of the York Plays is permeated with overtones. The climax is ing.

Canadian Eric Wright im-with every book. A Sense (Collins, £11.95) has 's Inspector Charlie Salter for the emotional secrets of rently respectable message with famous clients, newly deceased body is sed in her bath tub by a Salter makes waves in and academic; at home, his haves strangely and sus- j. Characterization and are impeccable.

James Zapt and the Don- y, by Michael Pearce (Col- 95), is the third delightful set in British-ruled Cairo signing of the century. A an disappear while taking the crowded terrace of rd's book; later a British anishes identically. The Captain Owen, head of the D. sciences through fa-ayers of Cairo society. d low, in secret, Pearce information with a ally light touch, and the s skillfully integrated into sphere of place and period.

THIS is really a book about Athenian men. The women of Athens are invisible and inaudible to us. Beyond a few physical details, we cannot recover the objective reality of their lives, still less what they themselves thought about it. All surviving writings and (so far as we know) all physical representations, were the work of men. However, if we approach this man-made material from the viewpoint of the social anthropologist, we can, just believe, find out quite a lot about the ways in which Athenian men thought of women, and the place they assigned them in their concept of society.

He starts with the roughage — politics and legal capabilities. Experts in the field will find the material here, as elsewhere in the book, familiar (his modest description "a work of synthesis" is to that extent correct), but the angle of approach opens up some novel vistas.

Women's exclusion from active politics put them, in one set of polarities, among the ruled rather than the rulers, a role apparently reflected in private life by their totally sheltered and legally subordinate situation, under the authority of a head of household. But since legitimate birth was a condition of inheritance rights and (probably) citizenship, men were effectively obliged to defend their womenfolk's interests, in order to protect their own social and political existence. What from one angle might look like male paternalism, from another looks very like sheer self-preservation. Appeals, in law-court speeches, to consideration for the feelings and

## Old, old story for women

welfare of women have as their underlying concern what the men would get out of it.

So, when an Athenian man declares his devotion to wife or mother, and his respect for her wishes, may we simply dismiss this as cynical sentimentality? Of course not; as Just points out, for an emotional ploy to work, there must be some basis of commonly acknowledged reality. Some mar-

Jane F. Gardner

WOMEN IN ATHENIAN LAW AND LIFE

By Roger Just  
Routledge, £30

A woman had no choice whom, or even whether, to marry, and could be moved from one husband to another willy-nilly, to suit male purposes — usually financial, rather than sexual. Marital boredom need not be a problem, at least for the man. There were plenty of socially acceptable alternatives: foreign mistresses (Only the Athenian really down on his luck would let his sister live as a concubine rather than a wife), party-girls and prostitutes, both slave and free. Unmarried men had the same range available; and for them dating and "going steady" with social equals

was replaced by homosexual relationships, complete with the double standard (remember that?) about actually doing it. Differences of age and experience could raise enormous barriers. Athenian men tended to marry late, but to marry off their women as young as possible. Men lived out in the world of politics, business, and ideas; their wives' experience and concerns were entirely domestic. In

Xenophon's *Oikonomikos* ("On Household Management") one of Socrates' stooges admits that there is virtually no one to whom he talks less than to his

wife. The rest of the treatise is taken up with thirtysomething Ischomachos's total recall of the training course of lectures he gave his child-bride, aged 14, on her duties (including career motivation). It is pleasing to note that Ischomachos's real-life widow made a highly scandalous second marriage, and perhaps had some fun after all.

Wives may not have found marriage too bad. It gave them the best career and highest status available, and some security. Extra-domestic sexual partners were not

in competition for their position, and henpecking, it seems, could keep some husbands away from the slave-maids.

Also, wives had ways of hitting back, or so men feared. Comedy, that exorcizer of fears, is full of men's neuroses about women's randiness, undetected adulteries, faked pregnancies, drunkenness, and general failure to subscribe to the proper values of the marital enterprise. All of these sometimes happened in reality, but they undeniably were part of men's stereotyped idea of women, formed under the constraints of their own idea of themselves.

Just neatly draws these and other facets of the composite image of women, as creatures defective in rationality and self-control (and therefore bracketed by Aristotle with slaves), that can be found dispersed through literary sources of various types. He shows how all ultimately depend upon the self-image of men arising from the social system which they themselves had created.

Prisoners of their own ideals, Athenian men (= citizens) aimed to be free, self-governing (therefore rational), governing others. Women were among the others, so "naturally" were the opposite — subordinate, incapable of self-control, irrational — and were therefore appropriately assigned to the position in society that men had allotted them. The idea that independence in women was a menace to the social order helped create the fictional monsters that threatened civilized life, such as Euripides' Bacchae and his Medea, and the Amazons.

## Victoria Glendinning visits Amis-land

## Life through a mist of whine

"ISN'T it terrible," says someone in this novel, "how when you find out more about someone you've known a long time and thought you knew all about, they're always worse than you thought before, never not as bad?" As readers, we have known Kingsley Amis a long time, so cannot be blamed for covertly finding similarities between him and his latest creation, Harry Caldecote — a retired librarian (the posh, private kind, not from a public library). The novel sets out to justify Harry; everyone needs him, however impossible he is. He and his circle are made for each other in some horrible but inescapable way.

Harry has two ex-wives. He lives with his widowed sister, and has a loose sexual arrangement with an old friend called Maureen. He is a senior member of a club called the Irving.

Just round the corner from the Garrick, Harry is a slob, but he is, the author insists, a good guy. Like everyone else in this book, he is motivated by the boredom and fear in varying proportions, but he also feels "endlessly, boringly, inadequately" responsible for a whole string of hang-ons, ex-wives and step-children, who can't do without him. They all drink a lot (the action, if that's what it is, centres on the local pub), telephone a lot, borrow money a lot, and visit one another complainingly, using mini-cabs all the time.

There is a blurred messiness about their days, and about the erstwhile links of marriage, sex, or hatred that still unite them, as there is about the language in which all this is conveyed. The sentences are like lumpy groceries, waiting to be unpacked from the misshapen bags of their paragraphs.

Here for example is Bunty, a distressed lesbian, thinking about Piers, the sponging cad who is in her flat: "After all he was one of her only bits of family, not very close, true, being no more than Harry Caldecote's son by his first marriage, and Harry being what to this day it took her a couple of seconds to work out in her head, her stepmother's divorced husband, but still."

The Asians who run the "news-agent's-cum-tobacconist's-confectioner's-delicatessen-cum-video-library-cum (from next week) dry-cleaning-establishment" use a formal, educated English, in which to discuss the pathetic habits of the native British whom they serve. But Harry and his raffishly ex-

only ex-wives, ex-husbands, ex-lovers. They are also ex-articulate, rambling on in Bunty's kind of shambling allusive colloquialism — even Harry the scholar and bibliophile, and Freddie, his humble, half-damaged brother, who was a poet in the 1950s, and even the invisible narrator.

It is not so much stream of consciousness as partially blocked drain of consciousness. What blocks the drains is disappointment, inertia, and drink. Thirty-five-year-old Fiona, the niece of an ex-wife of Harry's, subsists on white wine and the random attentions of mini-cab drivers and gamblers — including a lout called Keith, who has stepped for a moment out of Martin Amis's last novel to make a guest appearance in his father's ("Yeah, cheers").

This book is worth persisting with for the sake of islands of precision that illuminate the fog. Fiona's addiction to alcohol is transmitted with a clarity as chilly

as her white wine should be. The novel is set in an area of north London that is so precisely recognizable, (as was Notting Hill in *London Fields*, to which this book seems a paternal response) that Amis's gestures in the direction of fictionalizing it — by calling a restaurant Odette's instead of Odette's, for example — are purely decorative.

Kitchen noises are described with an obsessional precision, and there's a matching set of precisely defined outdoor noises, louder and more threatening. There is one piece of dazzling precision-engineering in the shaky structure of the novel itself, and it's to do with sex. The terrifyingly conscientious Desirée gives hen-pecked husband Freddie a pedicure, which he appreciates in a passive kind of way. Half a dozen pages later, she suggests "a nice early night" — which implies, as the author explains, something it would be "only fair" to call sexual activity, better guessed at than described. "Nevertheless something must be said." What is said, little though it is, is all too graphic because words and images already planted in the reader's mind in the apparently innocent account of the pedicure session become reactivated to illuminate the "nice early night".

Are such flashes of technical brilliance worth ploughing through all those mindless drinking sessions? Harry, sustained by his sister's unsentimental understanding, is grateful, in a cruel world, for what he can get. Me too.

## Rabbiting on for the sake of the pictures

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

FURTHER TALES OF LITTLE GREY RABBIT

By Denis Judd  
Illustrated by Margaret Tempest  
Collins, £9.95

ALISON Urtley was liable to get cross when anyone tried to compare her to Beatrix Potter. She rejected any suggestion of influence, and claimed that her stories about Little Grey Rabbit & Co came largely from her own upbringing as a country child.

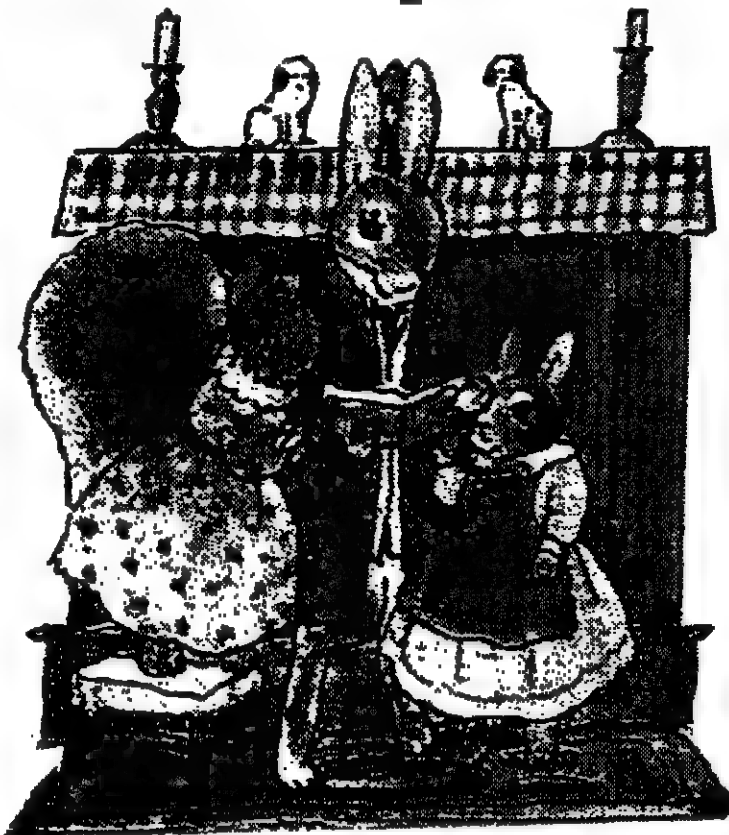
The truth of that assertion is not necessarily to her advantage, however. For despite recurrent local colour in her books — sycamore keys for doors, baking hedgehogs in clay — her stories are diffuse where Beatrix Potter's were shapely, her language slack rather than keenly controlled.

Moreover (another thought that riled her), what gave the Little Grey Rabbit books their enduring character was not so much her stories as Margaret Tempest's illustrations — subdued, chintzy, but redolent of a Metroland cosiness that was the last escape of the 1930s.

Now, in unexplained circumstances, 60 colour-sketches by Margaret Tempest for the Little Grey Rabbit books have been discovered. They are not fully finished, and, indeed, their very roughness gives them a childlike charm, but since they are all hitherto unpublished, Messrs Collins have had the notion of getting Denis Judd,

Mrs Urtley's biographer, to make up some Urtley pastiches into which they could be fitted.

Mr Judd says that he felt some disquiet over this; but he need not have done so. Simply because of its flaccid narrative style, the Little Grey Rabbit formula is eminently imitable; and by preserving the animals' stereotyped characterization, and by making occasional references to events in the original series of stories, Mr Judd proves a persuasive substitute for his model. Rabbit, Squirrel, and Hare remain in their curious *ménage à trois*; postman Robin and Milkman Hedgehog continue to call; threats from the Wild Wood stay suppressed. Even so, Margaret Tempest is still the one who justifies the exercise.



The curious *ménage à trois*: Squirrel, Hare and Little Grey Rabbit

### QUICK LIST

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

Adam, Eve, and the Serpent, by Elaine Pagels (Penguin, £4.99) How the early church came oddly to regard sexual desire as sin.

The Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien, edited by Humphrey Carpenter and Christopher Tolkien (Unwin Hyman, £6.99) Daff odd thing.

A Turn in the South, by V. S. Naipaul (Penguin, £4.99) Below the Mason-Dixon line, observed by a sharp and original eye.

### Writers' Monthly - FREE!

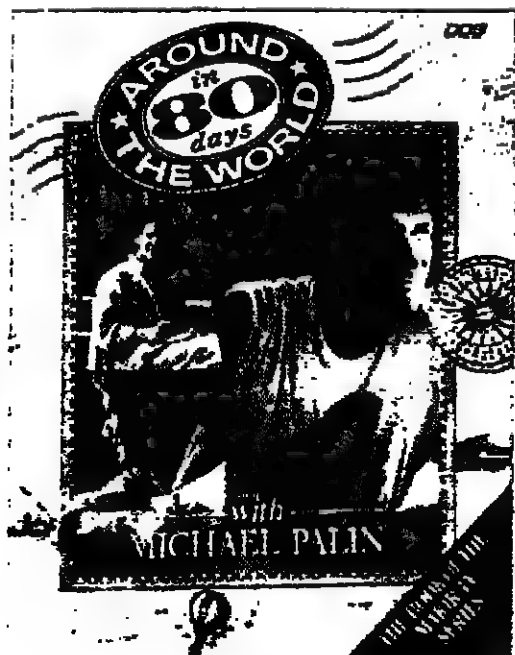
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## RECORDS

## Legendary encounters

Strange as it may seem at first, Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington waited a very long time before making a record together. It was not until they were both old men that they finally joined forces in the studio. The music from that session, recorded in April 1961, has been drifting in and out of circulation for a number of years. It is now back on the original Roulette label, available on a single CD or two LPs — *Together For The First Time and The Great Reunion*.

The two men never repeated the encounter. Perhaps there is nothing too surprising about that. They were, after all, poles apart in terms of temperament. From the purist's point of view, in fact, the collaboration was something of an anticlimax: none of the 17 tracks here represents the kind of definitive, ground-breaking work that would qualify for any time capsule. Indeed, they barely rate a mention in some of the standard reference books.

And yet, if it came to choosing a basic beginner's introduction to jazz, it would be tempting to put this disc ahead of Armstrong's *Hot Fives* or Ellington's *Blanton-Webster* band. Newcomers to jazz, accustomed to state-of-the-art reproduction, often find the true vintage recordings as alien and remote as cave paintings. For novices whose memories do not stretch back to wind-up gramophones in punts, there is not much nostalgia to be gained from deciphering the scratches on a wayward 78.

There is plenty here, in any case, for more seasoned listeners. Backed by his All Stars, Armstrong is the more assertive of the two leaders, wading into the tunes with unselfconscious ease. Taking Billy Kyle's place at the piano, Ellington provides all 17 compositions, most of them standards, although "The Beautiful American", built around Barney Bigard's gentle clarinet riff, was concocted on the spot.

Ellington's playing on this date has been criticized as over-reticent. He is certainly spare to the point of being transparent. But appearances are deceptive: even the shortest of solos has its own

## JAZZ

## Clive Davis

Louis Armstrong & Duke Ellington  
The Complete Louis Armstrong & Duke Ellington Sessions (Roulette CDP-7538442)

Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong  
Ella And Louis Again (Verve CD-825374)

Ella Fitzgerald The Intimate Ella (Verve CD-839638)

Duke Ellington Piano Reflections (Capitol CDP-752863)



Louis Armstrong: recording session with Ellington

inner logic. Apart from the sometimes awkward rhyming on "Azalea", all of the pieces are worthy of the occasion, with Armstrong whooping it up on "It Don't Mean A Thing" or "Don't Get Around Much Anymore". In a more sombre vein, "I Got It Bad And That Ain't Good" opens with a yearning trumpet chorus which

clears the way for a poignant vocal. The purely instrumental numbers are less compelling, but Armstrong's muted horn is obviously well suited to the mock-funereal tone of "Black And Tan Fantasy".

Supervised by Norman Granz, Armstrong's 1957 duets with that other legend, Ella Fitzgerald, hardly need recommendation. The prosaically titled follow-up to Ella and Louis overflows with vitality, with the Oscar Peterson Trio and Louis Bellson ticking away in the background. Songs like "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off" and "I Won't Dance" are ideal for throwaway performances like this. Listen to how "Stormy" blossoms from an initially wobbly rehearsal, Armstrong singing with one eye on Granz on the other side of the glass. The trumpet stays in its case much of the time, to be unleashed in splendidly economical solos. The mono reproduction, incidentally, is gorgeous.

*The Intimate Ella* is exactly what it says, the singer discreetly accompanied by pianist Paul Smith. The music was originally taped for the soundtrack of a 1960 film, *Let No Man Write My Epitaph*. A collection of 13 ballads is not to be taken at a single sitting, but each item repays individual attention, not least as a contrast to the bustling orchestral sound of the Songbook albums.

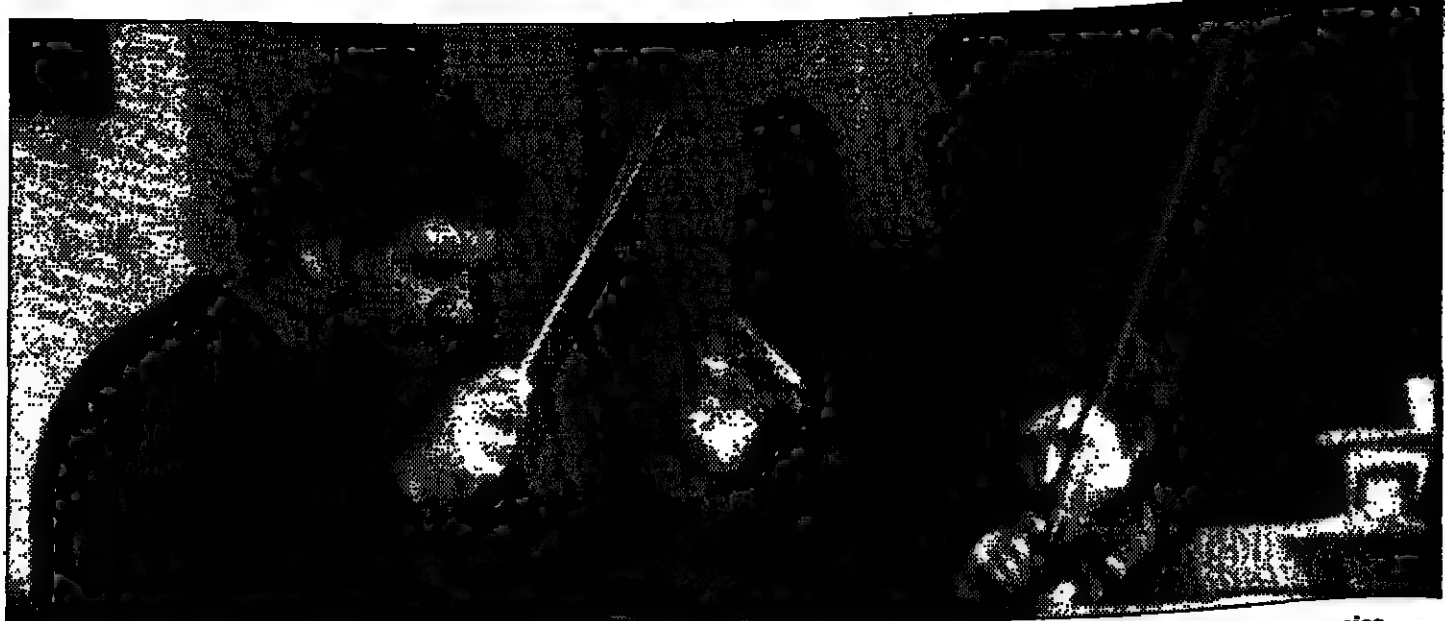
Another excellent month for releases is rounded off by Ellington's trio set from 1953. Along with "Money Jungle", made with Mingus and Max Roach almost a decade later, this is one of the most rewarding facets of mid-late Ellington. Discographers should note that "Decorated Blue" is an unissued piece, recently given its title by Mercer Ellington. While the early Fifties may have been one of the slackest periods for Ellington the band-leader, there are half a dozen enduring takes here, among them the salon curio "Melancholia". After a million and one tenor saxophones have drowned their way through "In A Sentimental Mood", Ellington's sprightly account reminds us that there is another way.

## JAZZ UPDATE

Stanley Turrentine The Best Of Stanley Turrentine (Blue Note CDP 793201)  
Deliciously varied selection; Randy Weston's "In Memory Of" is proof that Turrentine is no superficial hard bopper.

Horace Silver The Best Of Horace Silver, Volume Two (Blue Note CDP 793202)

"Song For My Father" gives this album a kick-start, with Joe Henderson's tenor solo sounding as potent as ever.



Orchestral virtuosity: Oliver Knussen rehearses the London Sinfonietta in Robert Saxton's brilliant scoring and circling arpeggios

## In search of modernism

The curious effect of *Wien Modern*, a souvenir of the 1988 festival of that name, is to make one wonder whether musical modernism ever really existed. Here, in the earliest piece on the record, is Luigi Nono creating an utterly simple, utterly direct love chant out of single, echoing, burgeoning phrases for a mixed choir with discreet percussion accompaniment. Here is Ligeti hearing long projections out of the 19th century in two parallel orchestral works, *Atmosphères* and *Lontano*. Here is Boulez converting the brief expositions of his early *Notations* for piano into marvels of sumptuous orchestral tissue. And here, in a new piece, is Wolfgang Rihm wondering whether at this late date the project can begin again, whether there can be, in the words of the Rimbaud "Illumination" he sets, "departure into affection and sounds that are new".

Perhaps some of the historical weight in these performances comes from the Vienna Philharmonic, from their fondness for the Bruckner in Ligeti and the Berg in Boulez: the reminiscences of *Lulu* in the first *Notation* are striking and very plausible, especially given that Boulez had recently been preparing the three-act premiere of Berg's opera when he created these arrangements. But the orchestra is a lot less happy with the two quick pieces from this set, and in the Ligeti there is a lack of etherality; the sound has a tangible, throbbing presence.

## CONTEMPORARY

## Paul Griffiths

Wien Modern Vienna PO/Abbado (DG 429 260-2)  
Stockhausen: Piano Pieces XII-XIV Wambach (Koch Schwann 310-015H1)  
Saxton: Four Works LS, BBCSO/Knussen (EMI CDC 7 48915 2)  
Wishart: Vox Electric Phoenix (Virgin VC 7 91108-2)

The potency of the playing is, though, a definite advantage in the Rihm piece, which, like the Nono, also benefits from the fresh-voiced singing of the Vienna Juventus Choir. Rihm writes for singing and speaking voices with a strident small orchestra, and his reference to the temperate style of early Boulez (*Le Soleil des eaux*) and Nono seems to suggest a dissatisfaction with the old modernism.

Rihm's piece is dedicated to Stockhausen, which rather adds to the enigma in the light of that composer's recent music. Bernhard Wambach's recording of the latest piano pieces, however, presents a stout case for Stockhausen as a continuing explorer of new worlds: what he achieves in resonance effects is extraordinary.

and his furred bass chanting of numbers (among other vocal effects) meshes richly with the piano sound. All these pieces are taken from operas, and suggest a comparison with Liszt's paraphrases, where the transcription may well be more interesting than the original.

The obvious precedent for Robert Saxton, I suppose, is Holst, in terms of his orchestral virtuosity, his adaptation of contemporary modernism (Stravinsky and Schoenberg for Holst, Ligeti and Boulez for Saxton) to a strong, single drive, and his attraction to spiritual metaphors of dance and enlightenment.

Saxton's music knows absolutely where it is going harmonically, and this certain dynamism enables him to establish sym-

phonic forms without conventional tonality or thematic argument. The price he pays is that he is obliged to work for much of the time with circling arpeggio patterns, but they do also allow him to use instrumentation as a brilliant art in its own right, and they are balanced by melodic writing of abundant personality.

Perhaps the piece to try as an invitation into Saxton's world is *The Ring of Eternity* for chamber orchestra, beginning with trumpet and woodwind echoing into an artificial reverberation sustained by the strings, and ending in whirling brilliance. The other works here are the Concerto for Orchestra, the chamber symphony *The Circles of Light*, and the sextet *The Sentinel of the Rainbow*, as dazzling a piece as the title promises.

Trevor Wishart is also an astute composer who takes his imagery from mystical writings, but in every other respect he is the opposite of the Saxton represented on the EMI record: concerned primarily with the voice, with new possibilities of sound production (and with unfamiliar old ones from Tibet, Mali and elsewhere), and with electronics. His *Vox* is a cycle of six pieces, each a virgin realm (the sense of the primitive is enhanced by the absence of words), except the last, which is a rude awakening. Otherwise, though, these are fascinating soundscapes, formidably performed by Electric Phoenix and having their natural home in the space between the loudspeakers, or between the ears.

## CLASSICAL UPDATE

Record For Romania (Marco Polo 8.223305)

This release may profit Romania, but it does little for Enescu: the early Romanian *Rhapsodies* and *Romanian Poem* are episodic and lush, with only the short, surely unfinished symphonic poem *Vox de la natura* showing a more complex personality.

But the playing, by Romanian orchestras, is passionate throughout.

Hartmann Symphonies

Werner Hermanns Mundi (WER 5018-50) (four CDs)  
Karl Amadeus Hartmann (1905-63) compounded Stravinsky, Hindemith and Berg into a robustly coloured and energetic style. Most of the eight symphonies are here conducted by Kubelik.

## HOMES &amp; GARDENS

Continued on next page



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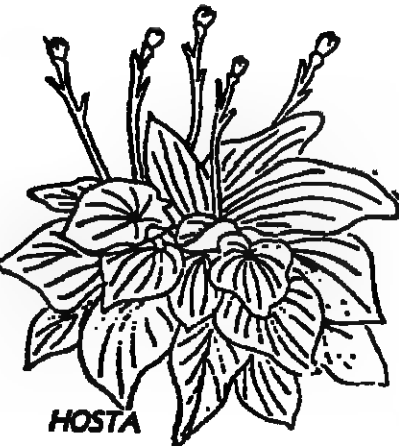
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## Heart on his sleeve

## OPERA

## John Higgins

Gigli: Arias and Duets (EMI CDH 7 51022)  
Puccini: Tosca Caniglia/Gigli/Sorgioli. Rome Opera Orch/de Fabritis (EMI CHS 7 63338 2) (two CDs)  
Puccini: La Bohème Albanese/Menotti/Gigli/Poli. La Scala Orch/Berrettoni (EMI CHS 7 63335 2) (two CDs)

Harlequin's Serenade from *Pagliacci* when he had recorded it 10 years earlier. Sometimes pomposity intruded: the "Cajus animam" from the Rossini *Sabat Mater* (1932) has too much of the concert grand piano style about it. And Alvaro's Act III aria from *Forza* is not a success. But then, Gigli was

normally less happy with Verdi than with composers closer to his own generation: Mascagni, Giordano and, above all, Puccini. One exception to this generalization is the *Aida* which he made in 1946, also out from EMI.

One of his best complete sets was the *Tosca* of 1938 under de Fabritis. Cavaradossi was a favourite role both on stage and in concert. Act III shows Gigli all honey in "E lucevan le stelle", although de Fabritis takes an age to get through the Prelude. Earlier he sang gracefully with Maria Callas's forceful *Tosca* as they argue about the painting of the Mary Magdalene.

The *Bohème* has a soprano, Licia Albanese, who was popular enough in her day to record Mimì with Jan Peerce as well as with Gigli. But the voice sounds unpleasantly strident to present day ears. Not so Gigli: he may show off disgracefully at the end of "Che gelida manina", but the way he begins the aria is a model of boyish charm. Act III is the best, especially for those with no objection to hearts being worn clearly on the sleeve, with excellent support from Afro Poli, who should have received more recognition than he did, as Marcello.

## ROCK UPDATE

Michael Damian Soul Provider (CBS 465343 1)

A Huey Lewis/Survivor-style fake soul voice pasted on to a middle-of-the-road, soft rock backing track has secured him a Top 3 hit with "How Am I Supposed To Live Without You". Also included here is his memorably overwrought version of "Georgia On My Mind".

Avantgarde Permanent Vacation (Geffen WX 126)

Originally a hit in 1967, but back in the chart thanks to the recent success of "Dude (Looks Like A Lady)", this is a glorious collection of agile heavy rock — one of the best in the Boston band's back catalogue.

Adam Ant Manners & Physique (MCA MCG 6068)

There really is "Room At The Top" so long as you have enough brass neck and your timing is right. This frothy collage of pre-fab pop, slotted carefully together

with a touch of polite funk and an eye for the main chance, is Mr Ant's first Top 20 album since 1983.

Cowboy Junkies The Caution Horses (RCA PL 90450)  
Follow-up to their critically revered debut *The Trinity Sessions*. This is a similar collection of painfully slow, neo-country rock songs, coloured by dashes of accordion and harmonica and led by the achingly vulnerable singing of Margo Timmins.

## A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 23 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

Jimi Hendrix was the most significant instrumentalist in the pantheon of rock. His debut album, *Are You Experienced* (1967), was to electric guitar techniques what the splitting of the atom was to nuclear physics. From the first trilling sequence of notes gradually subsumed by a rising wash of feedback that introduces "Foxy Lady", to the last clanging instrumental coda of "Are You Experienced" with its swarm of fading, backwards-taped effects, the album is an exploding kaleidoscope of technical innovation and savage splendour. It introduced a system of ideas that revolutionized the playing of the primary instrument of rock'n'roll and remains one of the most stunning collections of music. Contemporaries such as Clapton, Beck and Townshend were left reeling in the face of a talent that fused elements of blues, soul, R&B, psychedelia and jazz with a shot of some unearthly voodoo well beyond the grasp of mere mortals. His second album, *Ax: Bold As Love* (1967), showcases Hendrix's gentler side with a profusion of love songs — "Little Wing", "Castles Made Of Sand", "Bold As Love" —

## JIMI HENDRIX



Wild man: Jimi Hendrix

Chile (Slight Return)", a posthumous UK No 1. Together with B-sides, although a more comprehensive retrospective is *The Singles Album* (1983), in single format. Of the plethora of live albums released after his death, *Jimi Plays Monterey* (1986) is recommended, especially for the transcendental version of Dylan's "Like A Rolling Stone".

that seemed to tumble from his imagination with effortless fluency. Here the roughish, "wild man" image, which so caught the popular imagination, is belied by Hendrix's once all the superlative blarney and — stripped away — his child-like sensitivity as a songwriter. This was a traits, and things had already started to go wrong by the time *Electric Ladyland* was released in 1968. A mortal genius, it includes his immortal reading of Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower". And "Woodoo Smash Hits" (1968) gathers up Hendrix's first four singles, including "Hey Joe" and "Purple Haze", which collect together every song Hendrix released in single format. Of the plethora of live albums released after his death, *Jimi Plays Monterey* (1986) is recommended, especially for the transcendental version of Dylan's "Like A Rolling Stone".

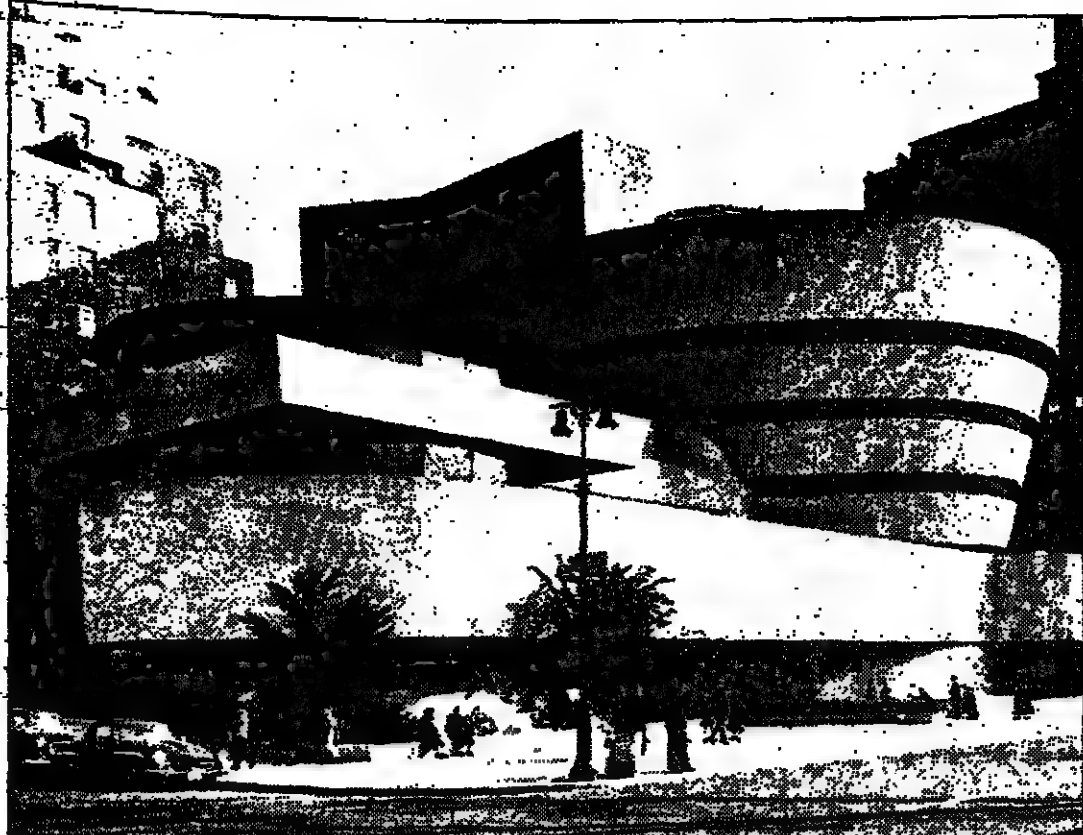
NEXT WEEK: John Lee Hooker, The Human League



THE ARTS

Frank Lloyd Wright's visionary projects continue to come to realization, more than 30 years after the architect's death. Paul Moor reports from California

# Dreams a mile high



Guggenheim Museum, New York: Wright redesigned it six times to meet building restrictions of the period

Driving south on US 101, about 20 miles before the Golden Gate Bridge leads into San Francisco, the motorist comes to a site bringing irresistibly into view one of the masterpieces of western American architecture. It is the Marin County Civic Center, and to the informed eye it instantly evokes one name: Frank Lloyd Wright.

Characteristically, Wright's vast structure blends into its environment with exceptional harmony. It houses, among other things, offices, a public library, a justice administration - even a jail. Aaron Green, Wright's San Francisco disciple who brought the project to completion, says that when Wright first studied the site, he announced: "I'll bridge these hills with beautiful arches."

The greatest of American architects died three years before the completion of the Civic Centre in 1962. One building in the grounds currently houses an immense exhibition, "Frank Lloyd Wright: In the Realm of Ideas". It comes from the Wright Foundation in Scottsdale, Arizona, where the

great man's work is carried on with the single-minded passion which characterized his disciples during his lifetime.

Wright - the prototypical genius, well ahead of his time - completed about 1,000 projects, an astonishingly high number. If it saddens the visitor to see "(Unbuilt)" on the labels identifying so many of the schemes displayed here, it is consoling to know that many others were completed.

The exhibition contains 160 sketches, completed drawings, huge photographs, and scale models of outstanding Wright works. But the high point is an outdoor exhibit: a full-scale realization of what its creator called the Usonian Automatic House.

High on Wright's list of aesthetic principles stood his proclamation of "the destruction of the box" - the eradication of masonry barriers traditionally dissecting living space into individual cubicles. He also revelled in undisciplined natural materials - concrete, metal, wood - and for his Usonian house he used plain rectangular concrete blocks.

He gave the blocks a variety of surface textures, but the fundamental structure was of unpainted concrete blocks reinforced by steel rods. He invented the word "Usonian" from USA, and by "Automatic" he meant that virtually anyone with a middle-class income could put one up - literally automatically.

The controversies that plagued Wright for much of his life never seriously deterred him. Part of the exhibition documents the tumult which accompanied the Marin County project; this found expression in such vociferous headlines as "Wright stalks out of board meeting angered at charges he supported Reds" and "New Red charges hurled at Wright".

Wright enthusiastically advocated building upwards in urban areas; among his last major projects was one intended for Chicago which he referred to conversationally as "the Mile-High". He planned just that: a slim, elegant obelisk, one mile high, providing vast areas of floor space but leaving the surrounding surface of the earth unencumbered.

He planned the "Mile-High" to the last detail. Nuclear power would run the lifts, which would serve several storeys simultaneously, and would rise and descend not on cables but on cogs. Sadly the caption to this exhibit concludes "(Unbuilt)".

So does the one describing the "Butterfly Bridge" which Wright designed for the lower part of San Francisco Bay. Stunning steel because of the need for perpetual maintenance painting, he planned a reinforced concrete structure rising in the middle to permit ships to pass underneath. At the midsection the bridge was to divide, and there, between the traffic lanes, he foresaw a full-sized park and rest area, for viewing the bay.

Indomitable local champions of the Butterfly claim they may yet see it built, and the Foundation in Arizona also has plans for other unrealized projects. Thirty-one years after Frank Lloyd Wright's death, his creative work is still alive and controversial, while his native land continues trying to catch up with him.

## Thorny thinking

### TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

JUST as last week's *Arena* profile of the dragon agent Peggy Ramsay illustrated the BBC 2 programme at its theatrical best, last night's film about the English Rose showed it at its rambling worst. The problem is of our own making: several years ago television critics told *Arena* how good it was at being quickly off-beat. Programmes dedicated to the Mini Minor and the song "My Way" were good enough in their own right to set some kind of daft agenda for the future - choose an arbitrary commodity and go down every one of its historical and sociological byways.

Thus for the Rose show we were given terminally boring lectures about the Wars of that name, brief chats to people who have had roses named after them, and a look at a lady who believes in smothering her lunch with petals. We were lucky, I suppose, not to be introduced to Rose's Lime Juice or Rose Macaulay, let alone the matted bands of the Grenadier Guards playing Ivor Novello's "Rose of England".

But random reflections on a single word need a focus if they are

not to degenerate, as this one did, into indulgent meanders on a non-existent theme. Next week I suppose we will have 40 minutes on the life and times of the cactus.

Over on Channel 4, on a night when most documentaries seemed to be competing for BAFTA nominations in advanced monotony, Hilary Minster's *Age of Hearts* was a profile of Zia Mahmood, arguably the world's greatest bridge player. It went some way towards explaining the fascination of a game which seems to attract world champions who always look like ageing movie stars, and sometimes are. For me, observing bridge-players has all the compulsive excitement of watching dust settle, but there are clearly those, not least Mahmood and Minster, for whom it represents something more than that.

Minster and Mahmood were at their best when exploring the possibilities of fixing a game: apparently there is a brand of Russian cigarettes which, when lit, makes a noise unlike any other. One pair of players was accused of passing illicit signals to each other with the sounds made by their cigarette papers.

Nowadays screens are erected between players to prevent any facial cues or other secret signs, and bids are written down to avoid coded vocal inflections. I only wish I could care, but, as newspaper bridge columns testify, there are thousands who do, and for them this may well have been the programme of the week.

## Musical journeys

### RADIO

Martin Cropper

TOBACCO has been the ruin of many of the great names of this century. One recalls the dreadful end of H.H. Munro, whose famous last words, raising his head above trench-level, were: "Put that bloody cigarette out!" In the case of Anton Webern, the fatal smoke was a cigar half-consumed outside his son-in-law's house; mistaking the composer for a black marketer, a US Army cook named Bell shot him dead.

John Thornley's artful collage *The Death of Anton Webern* (Radio 3, Sunday) wrapped up a weekend in which the composer's works were broadcast, from soup to nuts; a tribute all the more remarkable for not being tied to an anniversary in a publicist's diary. The rhapsodic effusion of *Heute Doktor Webern* - its alleged radicalism compromised by his conscious dedication to the classical tradition - was counterpointed by any amount of "natural" sound, including bomber engines, and the achievements of Frank Sinatra. Testifying at the military inquiry into the composer's death, a witness declared, "I

didn't see what transpired".

What transpired in the course of *The Great Bug Hunt* (Radio 4, Wednesday) was a *Scoop*-like catalogue of preparations for an entomological expedition to Indonesia, including a search for precisely the right kind of self-dramatising jungle boot. Martin Wainwright's four-part narrative promises well.

Other journeys were celebrated in *Recollections of an Excursion* (Radio 3, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), in which William Beckford, builder of Fonthill Abbey, recalled trailing his quivering sensibility around Portuguese monasteries in 1793. No curmudgeonly Smollett or frivolous Sterne, Beckford dilated on the sumptuous appointments of the sites visited, which were either "imposing" or "picturesque". A travel writer whose strongest complaint is that a place is "unpoetical" has no notion of an audience.

The Irish poet and playwright Aidan Higgins returned to radio with *Boonville* (Radio 3, Thursday), a typically involved pot-pourri evoking a year spent teaching a "creative writing" course at the University of Texas. Cicadas shrilling in the peacocks, like steel war music by Hindemith - this was, however, Professor Higgins at work and not one of his students, whose chief concern seemed to be the fortunes of the Longhorns football team. A news broadcast revealed that one of their linebackers had been arrested for biting a policeman.

## A Wagnerian evening at Covent Garden, and Scott Joplin's only opera, resisting resuscitation at the Bromley Festival

### One master singer to be prized

#### OPEN

Paul Griffiths  
*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*  
Covent Garden

THERE are not too many reasons for rushing to the Royal Opera's slightly new production of *Die Meistersinger*. But really one only needs the one: Bernd Weik's quietly perfect Hans Sachs. The tone of resignation properly pervades everything he does, but it is lightened by a feeling for irony: Sachs as a man whose observation of the world has brought him as much wit as wisdom.

His singing gives the impression of confidences being bestowed with the authority of transparent frankness, and yet not a word is lost. It is the same with his acting: he has only to open his hand and the point is made; he simply belongs in the role.

Perhaps it is unfair that he can be so true and at the same time so beautiful. His voice is centred in a rich, appealing warmth, but it is his range of nuance that gives him the means to make everything tell without exaggeration: this is the mastersinger as leader artist. He is also, for once, a man young and vigorous enough to be a plausible match for Eva.

Indeed, it seems absurd that she should willingly forgo him for the Walther of Reiner Goldberg, who has not been well served by the wig and costume departments, and who, on Thursday night, was in distressing vocal condition. The sound was strong but constricted and often out of tune.

Eva herself was another disappointment. This was Felicity Lott's first Wagner role, and she is unlikely to be encouraged to go

further. The excessive care in enunciation can be overcome, but that will leave the problem of so much artistry being dimmed by insufficient volume. For her, though, the quintet was the high point, reminding us of what makes her so special.

Hermann Frey as Beckmesser played down, as he promised in interview with Barry Millington on this page, the pinched spite of the character, which made it possible for him to sing most of the part with full, lustrous tone. I cannot imagine Beckmesser's attempt at the prize song has ever been made so beautiful. But of course it remains ridiculous, and Frey is too good a clown not to take advantage of the comedy.

Among the others, Robert Gambill looked a likely David, and picked up vocally after a

somewhat strained first act; Anne Howells, in gorgeous voice, made one wish Magdalene's part were ten times longer; and Gwyneth Howell contributed a feelingful Pogner. There is further help to the generous gravity of the work from Christoph von Dohnányi's spacious and deep-textured conducting, at least after an overture that had demonstrated his clarity, but had also plodded.

The production has been staged by John Cox and is generally unexceptionable, though the playing of the riot in slow motion under ice-blue lighting is a mistake. Michael Hopkinson's new sets for the finale - segments of grandstand with curved toy-glider wings of balsa wood and tissue paper rearing up over them - are bizarre, though the sensation of light is welcome.

DONALD COOPER



Bernd Weik: a "quietly perfect Hans Sachs" in *Die Meistersinger*

## A delicate blending of feeling and phrase

### THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

Abingdon Square  
Cottesloe

A MIDDLE-AGED widower, decent and tender-hearted, marries a teenage girl; she is as young as his son, with whom she soon discovers she is in love. Because their love, she imagines a lover who looks like him and eventually takes a real lover. The happiness of the marriage's early years turns to hatred. This bald outline of all but the closing scenes of Maria Irene Fornes' exquisitely shaped play gives away nothing that seriously matters, since our feeling for her characters, and our understanding of them, grows from the accumulation of delicately placed feelings, phrases, tones of voice and even reggae songs. These signals chime with one another like memories: precise, intensely charged and astonishingly unexpected.

The scenes, to which the pregnant remarks tend to form the climax, vary greatly in length. In the one where a workman asks the wife, Marion, for a glass of water, and drinks from the vase of flowers she is holding, there are but two lines spoken. Characters communicate their feelings to us even when their mouths are closed.

The play was first seen last summer at the pocket-sized Soho Poly as a co-production with Shared Experience. Nancy Meo-

kler has now re-directed it for the Cottesloe, where the stage alone is six times the ground area of the entire Soho Poly Theatre.

On Lucy Weiler's cream-white set, where the young people wear white, and Juster, the husband, and Marion's old aunt dress in grey or black, the only colour comes from the elegant, mahogany turn-of-the-century chairs and table. In the wide spaces between these islands of furniture, Meckler's exceptionally fine cast plays out the drama of a sexuality that becomes self-aware only to find itself trapped.

When Annabelle Apsion and Pearce Quigley bound on to the stage at the beginning, naively pulling each other to the ground, it comes as a shock to learn that she is about to become his step-mother. Apsion captures beautifully an adolescent's artless attempts to order her jumbled feelings, and so vividly does her voice colour the description of her imagined lover that it comes as another shock to find the dapper young Frank (Christopher Eccleston) transformed from an invention to a flesh-and-blood man.

Philip Voss's subtly marked performance as Juster, where thin-lipped smiles of guarded delight become the thinner lines of bitterness, is another excellent performance by one of our most versatile actors. When he hoarsely repeats the words of "Dearie", sung to him as a birthday treat by his still marginally happy family, you hardly know whether laughter, tears or sheer amazement is the fitting response.

The play's short run ends on April 28; I strongly recommend it.



Married bliss? Philip Voss and Annabelle Apsion in *Abingdon Square*

#### Michael Wright

Julius Caesar  
Theatre Royal,  
Brighton

TIM Pigott-Smith's Compass Theatre has rallied a huge company for this touring production, which is rich in fluency and detail. A little less twanging from those retractable daggers, a little more blood and sweat on those perfectly-ironed togas, and it might really stab home.

A number of large white marbled blocks, like chunks of pre-graffiti Berlin Wall or massive Augustan urns, make a clean-lined, versatile set. Here Pigott-Smith clothes his balding Brutus in a soft dark brown, hinting unconsciously at the resourcefulness that lies beneath his noted brows. It is a thoughtful but

clumsy interpretation, like Peter Blythe's petulant Cassius with his trumpet-oratory.

In marked contrast to this rather uninspiring double-act, John Duttine's dead-pan Mark Antony easily wins our sympathies, all but castrating the play. Splendid in scarlet, with a face that is primarily fringe, chin, and eye-lashes, he brings an incisiveness of delivery that rapidly undermines the ineffectual baying of the senators. Terence Longdon's Caesar is a creased face on a willowy stem; Lynn Clayton makes a sensuous Calpurnia; Pamela Miles a bimbo-like Portia.

Some remarkable coups-de-théâtre are up for the lack of emotional conflict. After Caesar's bloodless stabbing, the set itself begins to crack and bleed, and later, in a grotesque parody of *The Winter's Tale*, his marble statue comes hideously to life.

## Stars, stripes and a hint of spring

### CONCERT

Stephen Pettitt

Philharmonia/Slatkin  
Festival Hall

LEONARD Slatkin's anglophile sympathies have not caused him to lose his affinity with his native American music. He gave a hugely enjoyable demonstration of that in this Philharmonia concert.

The predominantly extrovert nature of the music naturally encouraged these in-form players, but the ingredients added by Slatkin - his absolute physical control combined with a careful ear for formal and textural balance - took their performances to the highest level.

Charles Ives's boldly innovative Variations on "America", heard in William Schumann's conspiratorially naughty orchestration, made for a rousing tongue-in-cheek opening. The orchestra negotiated its weird harmonies, its complex cross-rhythms and its superimpositions of tonality with flair and relish.

In Samuel Barber's Piano Concerto the soloist was John Browning - the work's first performer, back in 1962. Not surprisingly, he had this tough piece well under his fingers, and tackled the gritty opening movement and the exuberant 5/8 ostinato of the finale with an appropriately hard-edged, but eminently clean-fingered, determination. Yet he took every opportunity to relax into the more veiled sonorities of the beautifully orchestrated, central Canzona.

Sensitive orchestration is also a mark of Copland's suite from *Appalachian Spring*. In a lovely reading, Slatkin showed himself to be particularly adept at shaping the sound; the ending, with clarinet, harp, glockenspiel and strings meandering in ensemble and balance, was as finely controlled and as quiet as one is ever likely to hear.

This particular moment of alchemy was a marked contrast to the endearing swagger of Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, throughout which the now redundant harpist sat quietly beaming with pleasure, while the young children in the front row of the choir seats visibly thrilled to the sights and sounds of the busy percussion department, with its four French taxi-horns tooting away.

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
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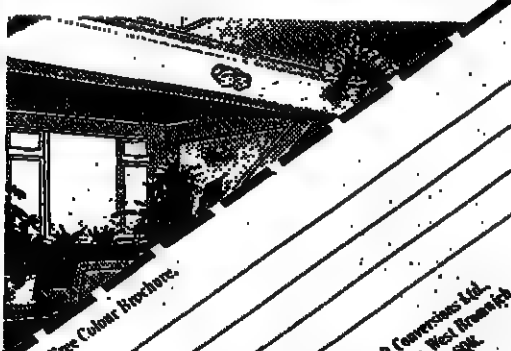


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**Continued on next page**

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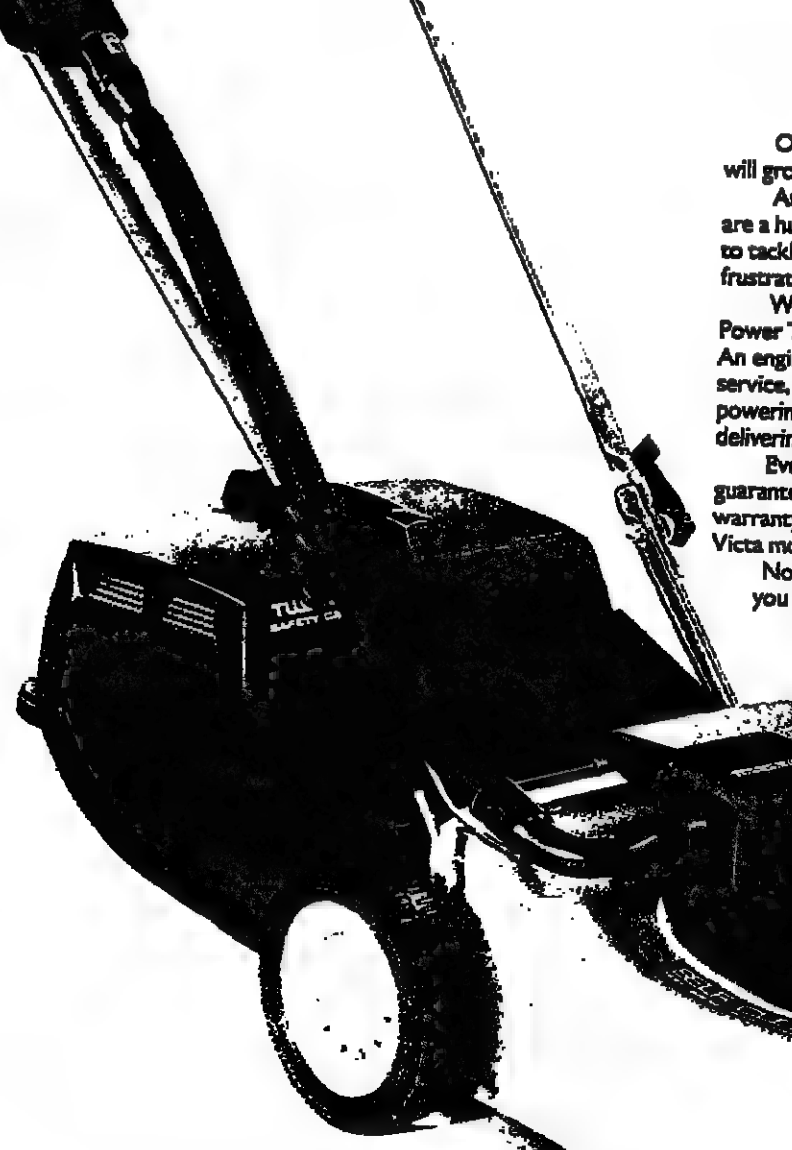
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Figure 1 is a line graph showing the percentage of total energy expenditure (TEE) for different activities over a 24-hour period. The Y-axis is 'Percentage of TEE' (0-100) and the X-axis is 'Time of Day' (0-24). The legend indicates: Sleeping (hatched), Sedentary (white), Light (diagonal lines), Moderate (cross-hatch), and Vigorous (solid black). Sleeping is highest at night (~30-40%). Sedentary is highest in the morning (~20-30%). Light activity is highest in the afternoon (~10-20%). Moderate and Vigorous activities are highest in the afternoon and evening (~10-20%).

# THIS

## FEATURE

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## CINEMA

## Samuel Beckett: celebration

## DANCE

**SHOSTAKOVICH ARRANGED:** After playing excerpts from Beethoven's ballet music for *Prometheus*, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Heinz Holliger gives the UK premiere of Rudolf Barshai's arrangement of Shostakovich's String Quartet No 3. Then Gidon Kremer solos in Beethoven's Violin Concerto. **Barbican Centre, Silk St, London (01-638 8891). Thursday, 7.45pm.**

**SCOTTISH BALLET:** Balanchine's *Who Cares?* to music by Gershwin is the highlight of a programme including his *Scotch Symphony* and a new staging of Petipa's *Paquita* by Oleg Vinogradov. New Theatre, Hull. (0482-226655), today, Theatre Royal Newcastle (091-2322061) Tue to April 7.

**OPERA 80:** Heavy-handed production on Tuesday of *The Merry Widow*, Heather Lorimer and the young cast work hard to salvage some semblance of style. On Wednesday, Opera 80 offers a compact, visually striking production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, which nevertheless overstretches its young cast. Theatre Royal, Lincoln (0522 525555). 7.30pm. £6.50-29.

**DRAWINGS COLLECTION:** Rembrandt, Michelangelo and Giovanni Bellini are included in an all-star line-up. British Museum, London WC1 (01-636 1555). From today.

**MARIO SIRONI:** Posters for Fiat from 1930-60 by a graphic artist who has contributed variously to Futurist and Fascist styles. Design Museum, London SE1 (01-403 9331). From Tues.

being in 'any way illustrational'.  
 And he has also stated that these  
 feelings his paintings attempt to  
 speak of are 'enjoyment, love of  
 life, fear of death, pleasure, pain,  
 sensuality, voluptuousness, sex,  
 sex, drink'. During his long  
 career, he is now 56, he has  
 experimented with most print  
 making processes from lithograph  
 and monoprint to etching and  
 screenprint. This lesser-known as-  
 pect of his work is, from Wednes-  
 day, the subject of a retrospective  
 at Austin Desmond Fine Art, 15A  
 Bloomsbury Square, London. 10.00am-  
 2.44pm, Mon-Fri, 10.00am-  
 6.30pm, Sat, 10am-12.30pm, free.  
 until April 26.  
 David Lee

PHOT

High esteem: John Hand  
Harle will be exhibiting  
his juggling skills in a **perch**  
which will run **for** At the  
Gaye's "Sexual Heal" was to  
bussy's "Syrinx". **in** even the  
he will be accomp<sup>y</sup> a full-  
pianist John Leed area, for  
pair will be in act  
which includes **champions**  
of synthesizers and they may yet  
mon Limbrick. Abundant in  
classical highlights for other  
Benjamin Britten **Thirty-one**  
Ravel's "Habanera" and Wright's  
reconstructed **work** is still  
there **in** **pl**al, while his  
Purple's "Peter does as trying to  
Opening dates: Che  
Hall (0242 5236  
David's Hall,  
731236) Fri: **plin's**  
Wavendon, Milnor  
583928) Sat. Also **trival**  
Hall, London SE1  
Mon 9.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Fulham Palace, Bishops' act; Anne  
Bishops Avenue, London, made  
(01-748 4751). Until a part were  
Gwynne  
LYNN DAVIS: Influencer  
Berenice Abbott and her  
Mapplethorpe in her  
American photograph  
travelled to Greenwich  
concentrate on icebergs  
have all the calm also  
overture  
the work of Ansel Adams clarity,  
Hamiltons Gallery, 13  
London, W1. (01-489 6  
April 3. been re-

**OUTING:** though

**BOSTON DOLL & TOYMA** new  
**CIRCLE EXHIBITION:** An opportunity to see guild work encompassing a wide range of play things—from stage coaches and handsome cabs to porcelain dolls. Boston Guildhall Museum, 5 St. Boston, Lincoln. Until April 30. Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm. Adult 40p, under 16, free.

**ANTIQUE DISCOVERY DAYS:** Popular outings for anyone wishing to get their antiques valued by Sotheby's experts, who also accept items for auction. Mon, Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, Kent. 10.30am-3.30pm, in aid of the Kent Association of Boys' Clubs. Tues, Civic Hall, Guildford. 10am-1.30pm. Fri at St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, London. 10.30am-3.30pm, in aid of Star and Garter Homes.

**SPRING FLOWER SHOW:** For horticulturalists and gardeners, especially those with a particular interest in camellias, daffodils and ornamental plants. Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Vincent Square and Greycoat St, London SW1 (01-834 4333). Tuesday 11am-7pm, Wednesday

**PORTOBELLO CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL:** Four days of exhibitions and events with an extensive fringe programme centred around Portobello Road, west London. Galleries, shops and related events.  
Thurs 11am-5pm; Fri, Sat, 11am-8pm; Sun 11am-6pm.

## CROSSWORD

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W	N	E	S
No	10	No	10
No	37	No	47
No	No	No	

led a spade, the king

hearts, East playing the 3. Herman won and took two rounds of spades, West discarding a club on the second round. How should South continue?

**Albert Dormer**

8 ..	Bxc3+	9 bxc3	c5
10 Qc2	Nc6	11 Bb2	Qc7
12 e4	a6	13 Bd3	f5
14 a5			

Sealing the centre in the

● The above position is the 1990 Lloyds Bank chess puzzle.

The three winners of *The Times* personal computer competition are: Mr R. Holman, Southport; John Law, Bournemouth; David William Laurie, Enfield, Middlesex.

**Raymond Keen**

Canyon 8 Top 12 Pitfall 13 E  
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14 Toyboy, 15 Recess

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

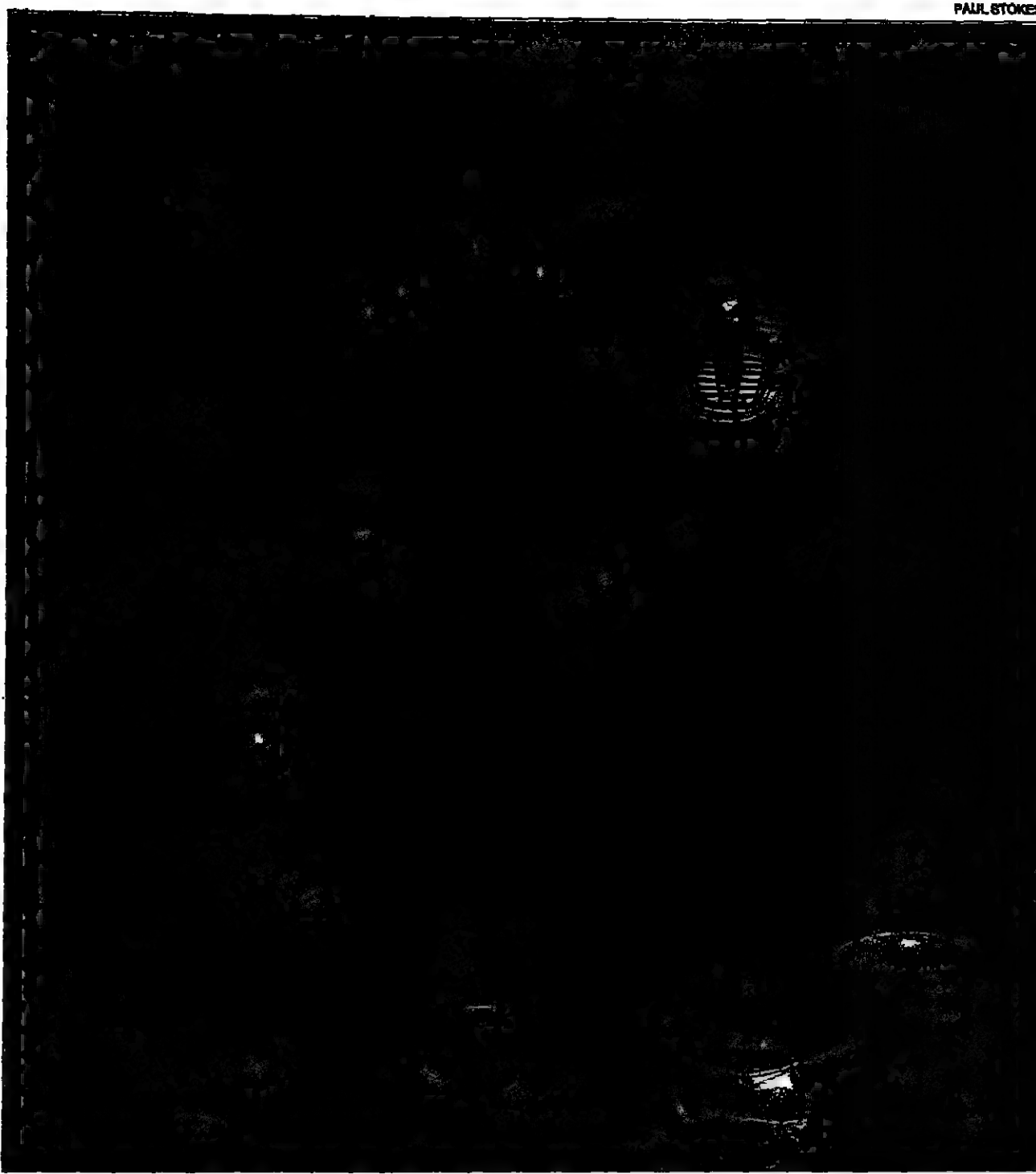


SHOPPING

# Thai treasure trove

Nicole Swengley  
discovers a  
hidden London  
warehouse full of  
Eastern delight

The name Remote is appropriate for the hard-to-find treasure house in west London which sells of decorative accessories, furniture and Thai goods. But it's a truck in terms of value for money. The warehouse is the one Charles, the Paris-based Paris Ceramics, the London's classic which he started on a journey with £200 when-unfashionable in Thailand. Charles and his partner art director, to import the indigenous carved objects. But ideas quickly and they guarding the north-ers to manufac-own designs, "environmental" rattan furniture, the warehouse are low, most at about a third less than shop prices. Remote will also be accessible, in the family shop at 543 Park Road, in addition the warehouse loca-which the antique tiles e. Paris Ceramics will e a shop at 228 Park Road when takes place. trying to sell an ve lifestyle but one balanced between east west, it's not overly. Mr Charles says, the furnishings aren't just; they mix so well with mporary and antique ture. After all, chinoiserie een with us for hundreds ars. What is important is way in which people put n together. Among Remote's wares are are raw silk from Cambodia, colonial chairs, metal fur-niture incorporating mosaics,



Merchants of the exotic Steve Charles (left) and Charlie Smith amid the decorative furniture, fabrics and carvings from the East

architectural pieces such as carved columns, and appealing animal figures. Mr Charles also has an eye for the eccentric large wooden frogs which double as seats, painted wooden cart sides with tiny mirrors which he sells as bedheads, and huge, carved tree roots whose use defies description. A simple, beaten metal and rattan chair costs £130. Copies of ornate, carved French mirrors cost £500. The ceramics range from African to Aztec in style and from £18 to £250. Hand-loomed 100 per cent cotton costs £8.50 a metre. Already commercial clients are latching on to Remote's potential for one-stop shop- ping. Bramley Court, a 32-bedroom hotel near Guild- ford, Surrey, has been kitted out with rattan bedheads, side-tables, curtains, acces- sories, and large decorative pieces for the foyer. But it's not only interior designers who plunder Re- mote. "Everyone who comes here buys something, even the delivery van chaps," Mr Smith says, adding proudly: "We sold more than 60 carved candlesticks in our first fort- night here."

Remote Trading, Unit 4, Mer- cury Works, Leyfield Road, W12 9JF (01-746 0049). Paris Ceramics, 543 Battersea Park Road, SW11 3BL (01-228 5765); warehouse (01-746 2240).

## Iron pots of good taste

Even in today's hi-tech kitchens, traditional cast-iron cookware is still a favourite

If the foodie forecasts are correct we will all be tucking into peasant-style dishes in the Nineties. Stews, cassoulets, unusual soups and organic vegetable-based recipes with rice, quinoa or buckwheat... all seem set to tempt us away from the filo pastry parcels and nouvelle cuisine we enjoyed in the Eighties (Nicole Swengley writes).

Cooking these healthy, hearty meals calls for cast-iron cookware of the kind that the French company Le Creuset has been making for more than 60 years. Even in these days of hi-tech kitchens cast iron performs as brilliantly as in the Middle Ages.

Cast iron is particularly effective because its weight, thickness and conductivity ensures the retention and correct dispersion of heat, promoting gentle, even cooking at low temperatures. Not only is it economical to use, it brings out the flavours from the ingredients.

Le Creuset's Tradition range is best known for its distinctive volcanic orange-coloured casserole dishes and wooden-handled saucepans, which can be used on any heat source and taken directly to the table, where they will keep hot for some time. This range is now also available in cerise, white, slate blue, dark blue, green and hazelnut.

Last year, the company launched a new range for the first time in 30 years. Le Creuset Vitrobase comprises new shapes which incorporate wide pouring lips on saucepans and new contoured, anti-slip, dishwasher-proof handles capable of withstanding oven



Le Creuset's new blue casserole (top) and traditional version

temperatures of up to 230°C/ 445°F/gas mark 8. The new range also has smooth, heat-resistant enamel bases for use on ceramic hobs and induction cookers. It is available in volcanic orange, cerise, blue and white.

Most Le Creuset cookware has a durable, enamel interior surface, which is hard-wearing and easy to clean, although some pieces have non-stick interiors. Unlike some non-stick cookware, Le Creuset's has a base coat of porous enamel coated with a non-stick material, which is absorbed into the enamel to produce a very hard, non-stick surface which survives scratching by metal utensils.

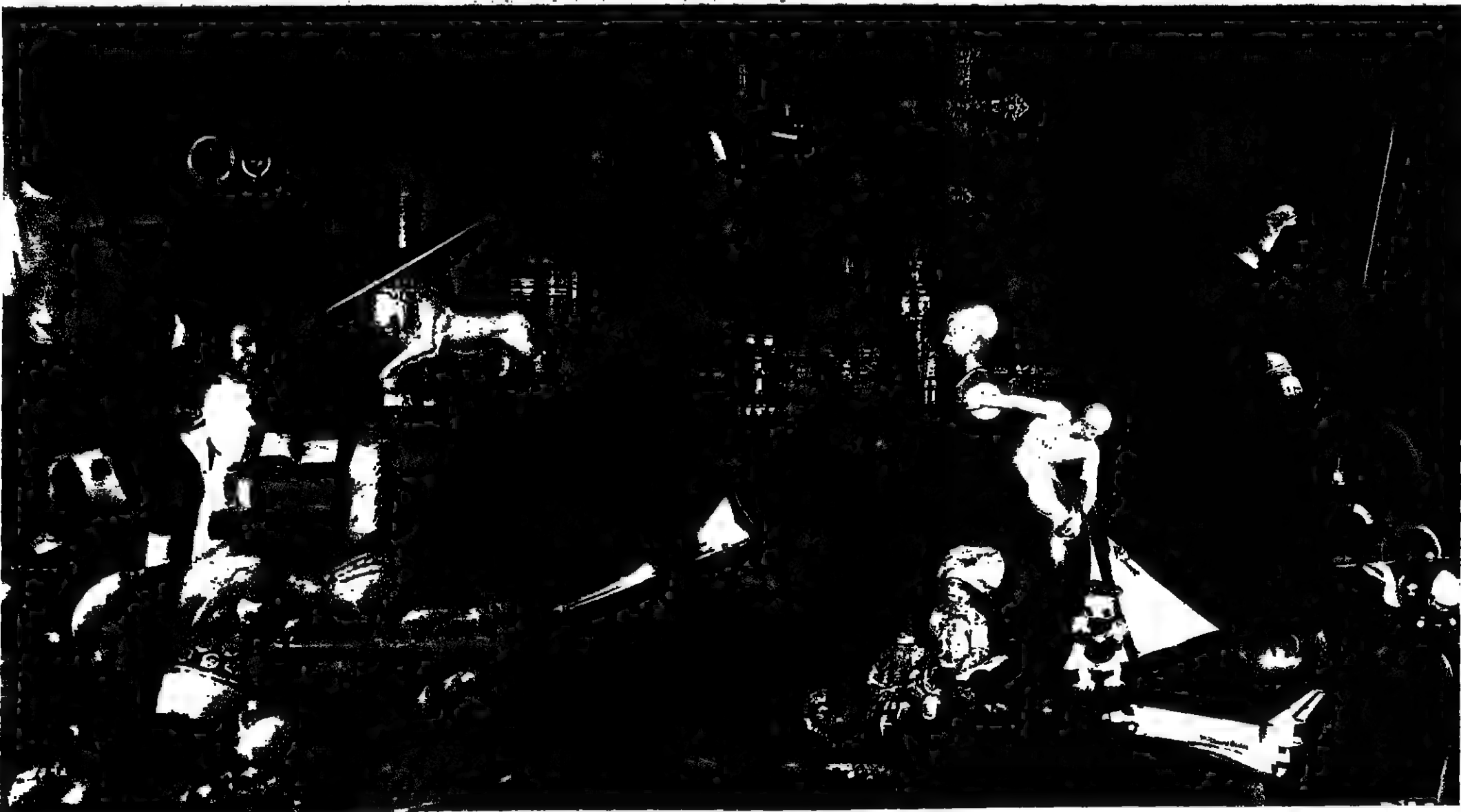
The company, founded in 1925, has a factory at Fresnoy-le-Grand in northern France close to St Quentin, a cross-roads for supplies of pig iron, coke, sand and enamel. Its sister foundry, at Cousances, has been in production since 1553, when Jean Barisien paid seven hogs-heads of wheat to

the lord of the manor in return for a coat-of-arms and authorization to cast iron at place called "God's Four-tain". Today this foundry manufactures the Cousances range, which is similar to Le Creuset but comprises different shapes and styles.

Le Creuset's production process involves casting in sand moulds, sand-blasting, enamel-spraying and finally firing at 800°C. The enamel then becomes embodied into the cast iron, making it resistant to damage.

Hand-crafting is still used in mould-making, casting and enamelling. And, as each sand mould is destroyed after use, no two pieces of Le Creuset are ever exactly identical. All are guaranteed for 10 years.

Le Creuset and Cousances cookware is available at department stores and specialist kitchen shops throughout Britain. An after-sales and advice service is available from the Kitchenware Merchants, Stephenson Close, East Portway, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3RU.



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For a limited period only, readers of The Times can get their copy at a special reduced price of £5.95. The Guide comes complete with a Museums Passport of your choice - either junior or adult. These clever little access cards won't cost you a penny, but could save you a fortune. Holders enjoy free or reduced entry to hundreds of museums and galleries, and exciting offers like free posters and big discounts in museum shops.

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THE TIMES





# The Master golfer's guide to the Augusta course

JOHN LAWSON/GEORGEY SIMS

Nick Faldo tells  
Mitchell Platts  
about the perils  
of playing at  
Augusta

What struck Nick Faldo the first time he saw Augusta National was the sheer beauty of the place. That was 11 years ago. He returns there next week to defend his Masters championship in the first of the four major golf tournaments of 1990.

"I know that first year I did not learn all I needed to know to play the course," Faldo said. "But I was immediately taken by its beauty. I can remember going out the first time, standing on the second tee and feeling as if I was in a giant garden."

"You think you can walk out there and play the place normally. Instead, you get into all kinds of knots, and those knots are difficult to unravel. You stand on a tee and think: 'I know exactly where I've got to hit this'. But choose the wrong line, as invariably you do when first you play Augusta, and you can easily lose 30 yards. And that 30 yards becomes so important as you realize that huge though the greens are, there are flat spots on which it is imperative to land the ball to ease the strain on your putting."

"You've got to know your route. You've got to know what to do and to be positive about it. The margin of error is minute, especially on the inward half."

Here is Faldo's analysis of the last nine holes, where championships are won and lost.

## HOLE 10

One of the prettiest but potentially the most punishing. That was proved last year with the average, per hole, per player, being 4.22. The key is to ensure you hook the drive from the tee in front of Bobby Jones's cottage so that it rolls far enough to finish in a swale. You will see some very long drives here. The approach with a four to a six-iron is to a green which slopes from right to left, looks flat but has all manner of breaks in it. You must use the driver to reach that swale. If you fail then even from the fairway you will almost certainly have a downhill, sidehill lie. You cannot hit the approach up too quickly because first you must start the ball out low so as to negotiate the overhanging pines.

## HOLE 11

This is the famous "ball-out" hole. We all seem to stand on the tee, rip the ball out there and then stick the second to the right of the green. Last year, I hit the target to win the play-off here but, earlier in the day, my drive hit one of the pines and finished only 150 yards from the tee. But many approaches do finish in that area from where Larry Mize chipped in. It has been that way since 1950 when the creek was dammed to form the pond on the left which is an obvious distraction. It is an extremely well designed hole. The slopes are all correct. If they put the pin to the left and you hit to the right then you have a downhill, curling putt. If you miss to the right, a poorly hit recovery will kick away. I try to drive down the middle for a better view then work the approach off the shoulder of the green into the flag. Last year by the play-off the wind and rain was coming from the right. I aimed 10 feet to the right and the wind blew it back on line.

## HOLE 12

This is the second of the trio of holes known as Amen Corner and you need to say your prayers on the green, which, as we all know, is guarded by Rae's Creek and two bunkers at the back. It is a very clever

green because the landing area, wherever they put the pin, is so small. The green is small by Augusta standards and yet there are really three little greens within a green. Imagine a circle of around 15 to 18 feet in circumference and that is your target. If you pull or push the ball ever so slightly then you will leave yourself a long, teasing putt or even miss the green altogether.

## HOLE 13

Just where you aim with the driver depends entirely on how you are feeling. There are three pine trees to use as a guide — the right one is the safe line, the middle one a touch more aggressive and the one to the left represents the tiger line. If you can hook the drive off that line then you can get the ball to run all the way round the wooded, creek-guarded corner as the hole dog-legs to the left. Then you could be going in with as little as a five-iron although the strategy of taking the tiger line is fraught with danger. If you play conservatively then you may have to do so again with the second shot by laying up short of the creek which crosses in front of the green. It is not really the percentage shot to stand there with a fairway wood on a steep lie and fire the ball first over the creek then get it to stop on the green. I did go in there with a three-wood in the last round and I hit my shot of the day. It carried the creek, landed softly and the ball rolled to within 12 feet of the cup.

## HOLE 14

You have got to draw from right to left again, following the line of the pine trees, only this time you can do so with a three-wood. It is necessary to

use a driver at most of the par fours and par fives at Augusta but not here. If you shape the shot correctly then you should be going in with anything between a six and a nine-iron. The spectacular green has a mega-slope from left to right so you've got to know where the flat spots are and try to land the ball on the one which is on the correct side of the hole from which to putt. If you miss the flat spot then the ball can roll 60, 70 feet away. I hit a very good shot with a six-iron on the last day last year to the back left, finishing five feet away for a birdie. The green is one of the quickest; long putts are curling, evil ones.

## HOLE 15

It's a gamble. You can stand on the tee and try to belt the living daylight out of it. The line is a fraction left of centre. Then comes the shot; possibly a four-wood or a long iron. If you miss it then you'll come up short in the water. If you hit it too hard then you can go in the water, too, because, although rarely seen on TV, there is water beyond the green. Go over the green, anyway, and you have an impossible chip back. You can lay up in two but it leaves you with one of those pitches which can spin back into the water. Overall I think 15 is a better par five.

## HOLE 16

In theory it all comes down to the green, and where they put the pin, because in my opinion you've got to mis-hit the tee shot to finish in the water. As a rule they put the pin to the left on the last day although I think that a slightly easier target than when it is to the right. There is a big ridge running from front right to back right so with the hole cut just above that you can have only an eight or 10-foot zone in which to land the ball. If you push it then the ball will kick right, leaving you perhaps only 20 feet away but snookered, and if you pull it then it will roll left so finishing 40 feet or so down the hill. When the pin is to the left then you can aim marginally to the right and then let the natural contours of the green take the ball down towards the cup. On the green, watch for the breaks of the putt; I holed from 18

feet for a birdie in the last round and the ball broke six feet before it disappeared.

## HOLE 17

You smash the drive over two trees, one known as Ike's tree which has truly grown and spread over the years, that encroach the fairway and then go into the green with anything between a six and a nine-iron. The approach can be made trickier by the wind which blows round from the tee at the 18th and can knock down what looks a good approach so leaving the ball in the front bunker. The green is another of the big, sloping variety so you've got to land the ball in the right place or run the risk of it rolling into three-putt territory. I was in all the wrong places last year and if I had not holed my 30-footer for a birdie then the ball was going so fast that I would probably have finished fourth. I knew when it went in that I was going to win.

## HOLE 18

This is a very good finishing hole. You've been drawing shots all the way round and now, suddenly, as you look up the hill you've got to fade it off the tee. And the driving channel, with branches overhanging from either side, is very narrow. The shot in normal weather conditions is with a three-wood so that you don't reach the bunkers on the left which were developed so as to stop big-hitters going way left for safety. The hole plays quite long up the hill and you can need a three-iron if the pin is on the back. But if it's on the front, and you've hit a good tee shot, then it is likely to be a seven-iron. You can't see the bottom of the pin but that is OK here. As I said, it is a question of doing your homework.

What  
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This year, the blues  
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- Simon Barnes's sporting diary, page 10**











Michael Seely visits Pulborough to find Guy Harwood marshalling a powerful team for this season's big races

# Potent mix of youth and experience

Guy Harwood watched intently as Cacoches and Exbourne entered with the three-year-olds up the Sticks gallop. The two generations moved purposefully in the lock across the Sussex hills above Pulborough, the business of racing now close at hand.

The two older horses had something in common, both having suffered last season at the hands of Nashwan. "Cacoches has always been a very good horse," Harwood said. "When he was beaten a neck by Nashwan at Ascot, the pair not only finished fast, they beat the rest of the field comprehensively."

"He was unlucky not to have won a couple of group one races last season but I am sure he will put it right this year. He could start in the Coronation Cup at Epsom."

Exbourne met his match against Nashwan when beaten a length in the 2,000 Guineas. "He had a problem with his near-foot, which prevented us from training him after that. He's going to be an interesting horse this season. I hope he'll run over a mile in the Locking Stakes, but we think he's likely to stay 10 furlongs."

A cornerstone of Harwood's strength this season is the powerful armada of older horses. At a time when retirement at three has become almost compulsory, Pulborough's 164 horse-power unit includes no less than 38 horses aged four and upwards. Aside from Cacoches and Exbourne, Asatiss, Ile De Chypre, the winner of York's International Stakes last season, and Sadeem, who will attempt to become the only horse apart from Sagaro to win three Gold Cups, promise a memorable season. In almost every category, Harwood has a high-class representative to call upon.

The concentration of firepower is, however, as much

happy accident as astute planning. "Every horse is different," Harwood said. "For example, Nashwan and Zilzal had temperament problems. Travelling worried Nashwan, and Zilzal sweated up before his races. But both horses proved their point, so perhaps their owners thought it was time to capitalize them."

Cacoches and Exbourne both failed to realize their full potential at three. "Some horses don't maximize their opportunities at that age," Harwood went on. "Look at Roussillon and Kalaglow. They both came to their best at four. There's no reason why horses shouldn't improve at that age. Also, it's difficult to buy a good horse so there are owners who want to go on racing if they already have one."

As the classic season draws ever-closer, Harwood is also strongly placed in that department. Digression was rated joint second-top in the European Free Handicap after a convincing win in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot; Duke Of Paducah, Raj Waki and Defensive Play are lightly-raced colts with classic potential.

The stable has twice won the 2,000 Guineas, with To-Agori-Mou and Dancing Brave, but the Derby continues to elude the stable. Dancing Brave's unlucky defeat in 1986 is still a bitter memory for the yard, and for owner Khalid Abdullah. Stamina is likely to be Digression's strong suit, so the trainer has decided to forego the Guineas. "The Derby is the one race that Mr Abdullah wants to win so we're going to train Digression for it," he said.

Raj Waki, Shout And Sing and possibly Chidrey are the stable's most likely runners at Newmarket. "I haven't entirely ruled out Duke Of Paducah for that race, but we'll just have to see how things work out."



Pointing the way: Guy Harwood supervises his string on the Pulborough gallops

With Easter falling late this year, the classic trials are slower to arrive than usual. The Laburnum Stakes at Kempton next Friday, which will see the first appearance of Mukaddam, the second favourite for the Guineas, is also Harwood's first target for one of his classic hopes. "We might run Shout And Sing there. Basically, there's the Laburnum, the Kempton Trial at Easter, the Craven, the Free Handicap and the nine-furlong Grey Fiddlers Stakes. Those are the races I'm looking at, but it's impossible to be specific about which horse will go for which race."

For the fillies, Free At Last put up a particularly game and high-class performance when beating Qui Danzig, Curis Regis and other colts in the Somerville Tattersall Stakes at Newmarket.

"Free At Last, Azadeh and Diamond Shoes are all 1,000 Guineas possibilities," Harwood said. "For the Oaks I would also be looking at Akumantis, Allez Milady and Ahead."

Even to those closely involved, a trainer's unwillingness to commit himself to the likely merit of his potential classic hopes at the end of March, with the Guineas just five weeks away and the Derby only 10, comes as an

annual surprise. "The trouble is that horses like this don't show a lot at home so we don't know a great deal about them until they run in their trials," Harwood said. However, Pulborough rarely entertains angels unawares. Winners seldom run unbacked and the flamboyant style of the operation is usually reflected by the betting market.

However, Harwood is still cautious. "As far as Digression is concerned, we've always known he was a classy horse, but just how classy he is, we don't know. He's done one bit of serious work, which impressed me a lot."

Harwood is, above all, a businessman, as the gleaming Rolls Royces, Jaguars and Range Rovers in the immaculate showroom of Harwood's Garage in Pulborough testify. His entrepreneurial flair gives him an empathy with leading figures in industry; he attracts like-minded owners. Restless energy finds further outlets in the many sporting activities he shares with his owners and colleagues.

Harwood, a ruthless competitor who plays the game to its limits, has built his success on unrelenting attention to detail and almost microscopic scrutiny of his horses. This season he has some enviable cases for study.

# Wonder Willet in good heart for Times qualifier

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

HOoves will be rattling at today's point-to-points, but, unfortunately, not many of them. An explosion of rain has brought a downfall of rain but today, despite large entries at most meetings, many horses are likely to be kept at home.

Even after watering took place at Mollington for the Grafton, where two Times Championship qualifiers were to take place, the stewards decided on Thursday evening that it would be unsafe to race on the hard ground, and the meeting has been cancelled.

There are no problems, however, at Llanvayley for the Monmouthshire where the going will be good. The Times qualifier here will be split and it is unfortunate for Chance Bay that he is in the same division as Wonder Willet, the winner of the adjacent race at Howick last week, who should continue the good work.

Had Chance Bay been in the first division he would also have been a confident choice, but his absence puts the Screamin Demon in with a favourite's chance.

The going was good to firm when Welkown Character won the maiden in impressive style at Wiltshire. He looks to be the one they all have to beat in the Times race at the Castleford where horses will make a print although the going is firm. The main opposition to him may come from Asceralmoor.

Stanwick Lad, who won a hunter chase at Worcester last season on firm going, is the favourite for the Land Rover event at the Blankney. In the same sponsor's qualifier at the East Essex most of the top East Anglian horses are engaged. Of these, Carla Choice is a cut above the rest.

Last week's Times qualifier winner at the Ryecliffe, Classic Bar, could be in the field for the Audi qualifier at the Morpeth but the more experienced Level Quay is preferred.

In the corresponding race at the Chilton, Westwood Drive, second in the PFOA race at Carnarvon last week, has



Point-to-point Championship

Higham Hill as the main opposition.

Wily Yeoman is happy on any ground and is the pick of the entries for the RMC qualifier at the Crawley and Harnham. The Silent Master could be difficult to beat in this event at the Flint and Deasleigh and Matisa may be good enough at the Carmarthen.

Philip Schofield, with 12 wins to his credit already this season, looks unlikely to come away empty-handed from his five rides at the South Devon. In particular, Confused Express, on whom he won the Lamerton maiden, looks the pick in the members' race and Cordelia should account for Buckmill in the adjacent.

Top-of-the-ground exponents Mischievous Monk and No Sweat could win the men's and women's open races respectively at the Royal Artillery. The last race here is for the gun and timber pullers of the King's Troop RHA. They run and jump remarkably well for their size and only take about half a minute longer than the winner of the open race.

Triple winner Glen Lochan may have his colours lowered by the winner of three, Ready Steady, in the Bramham Moor open.

**Today's fixtures**

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## The Times guide to 136th University Boat Race

## Odds weigh heavily against Cambridge

By Mike Rosewell

OXFORD go to the start this afternoon at 4pm as firm favourites to win their fourteenth Boat Race in 15 years.

The signs were clear for Cambridge when Oxford beat them by 16 seconds at the Reading Head on March 3. Despite Cambridge rearing the positions of their crew and Oxford changing their stroke man since that date, there is little evidence to suggest that Oxford will not extend this margin over the longer four and a quarter-mile course today and retain the Beefeater Trophy.

Oxford have a two stone weight advantage, a one and a half year age advantage, and, most crucially, a considerable advantage in experience. Jonathan Searle, Rupert Obholzer and Matthew Pincet are all bronze medal winners at world championship level.

Richard Hull, a survivor from the 1987 "mutiny crew", Jonathan Searle, the President, and Mike Gaffney, the stroke, will all go to the start with two boat race wins behind them. Christopher Heathcote, the heaviest competitor ever, Donald Miller, an American triathlete, and Tom Stocock, a winner for Isis, complete the line-up of oarsmen.

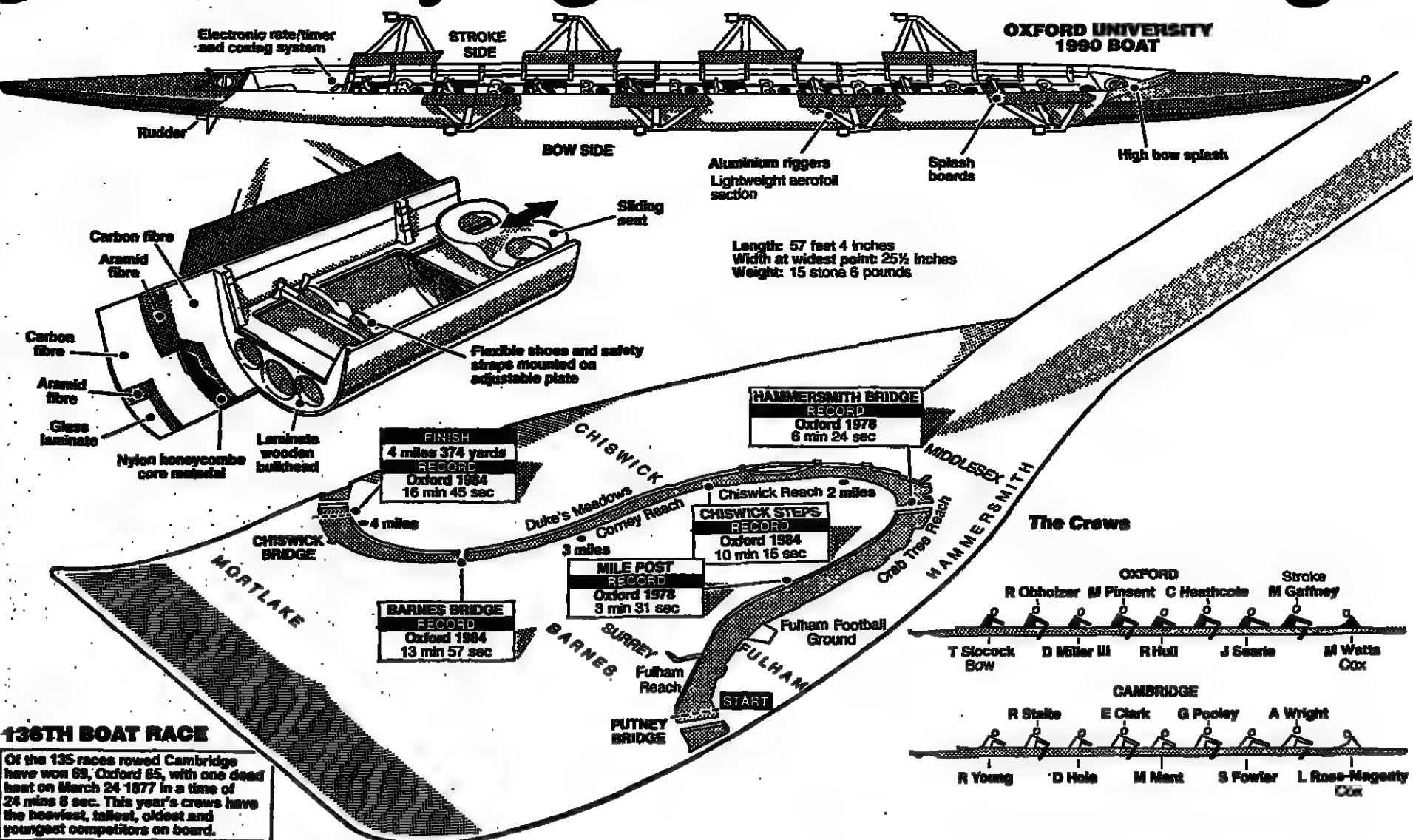
Cambridge have just two ex-Blues, the President, Paddy Mant, and Guy Pooley, both of the losing variety. Richard Young, Edwin Clark and Richard Stait are all ex-Goldies; the latter two being very much lightweights. The remaining three, Steven

Fowler, Duncan Hole and the stroke, Adam Wright, appeared from the freshmen eight, the stroke man being Cambridge's find of the year. Female coxswains made the headlines last year and Lisa Ross-Magnety, of Cambridge, has had her fair share of media attention, all of which overlooked the fact that she has already won two boat races, the women's lightweight event in 1987 and the Goldie Isis race in 1988. Martin Watts, though, spent hours on the Tideway while at Westminster School and must have a greater understanding of its vagaries.

The old rowing maxim that "a good big one will always beat a good little one" could be applied here, although Cambridge do not impress as particularly "good little ones" and Oxford, when racing rather than paddling are one of their best ever combinations.

Both crews looked relaxed at Putney yesterday morning, although Oxford won a little psychological battle, by turning ahead of Cambridge and causing them to row in launch wash from Hammersmith to Putney. Presumably Cambridge's sports psychologist, Brian Miller, subsequently put their minds at rest.

The reserve crew race between Isis and Goldie (3.30pm) could cause a family feud, with cousins, Richard Thorp and Drostan Vye stroking the respective combinations. The Thorp family seem the most likely to be celebrating the outcome.



## 136TH BOAT RACE

Of the 135 races rowed Cambridge have won 68, Oxford 65, with one dead heat on March 24 1877 in a time of 24 mins 8 sec. The two crews have the heaviest, tallest, oldest and youngest competitors on board.

## Oxford's trip with the light fantastic

By Mike Rosewell

CHRISTOPHER Heathcote, the 17st 3lb man in the Oxford crew, is some two stones heavier than the boat which will carry him over the 4 1/4 miles from Putney to Mortlake today.

The boat, built by Aylings at West Molesey, is 60ft long and will have to withstand pressures of 350-400lb per square inch on each rigger as the crew gets away from the start at a speed greater than any of the following launches. The pressure drops off somewhat after that initial burst.

The skin of the boat is a

complicated structure. It is made in a female mould, rather like a baking tray. The mould is treated with a release agent, waxed, and coated with resin to ensure that the hull emerges clean and waterproof. A top layer of kevlar, an expensive type of fibreglass, is then applied and this gives the boat impact resistance, should it hit an obstruction in the water, although moored barges can prove rather too solid, as Cambridge know to their cost.

The whole structure is then strengthened further with carbon fibre along the vital surfaces such as the keel, the top of the boat, and the

sections of the skin where the ribs, which hold seats and riggers, will be fixed.

Then comes the "secret ingredient", the honeycomb core. Its function is to keep the inner and outer skins apart, it is 90 per cent air, and increases the strength by some 4,000 times. The second kevlar skin is then added, the two together being no more than .0015 of an inch thick, and the basic hull has been produced.

Ribs are then added - these are made of wood reinforced with 18 layers of carbon fibre - before, finally, the decking is laid in such a

way as to prevent the boat twisting.

Since the crew need something to sit on and something to pull against, the seats, slides, footrests and riggers are then inserted. Where strength is not vital, such fittings are made of moulded plastic. For "pressure" fittings, such as riggers, a light, but strong, form of aluminium is used.

All of these fittings are adjustable. The position of a man in the boat can be moved forwards and backwards. The leverage exerted on the blade can be altered by moving the rigger in or out or by changing the position of the "button", the plastic

fulcrum on the blade.

The ability to make last minute changes is vital to coaches since these approximate to changing gear in a car when you go uphill, and a headwind for a crew on the day is "going uphill". Changing the gearing by one centimetre can make the difference between winning and losing in a tight race.

The cost of this technical missile will not leave you much change out of £10,000, although you need not order the specially-designed riggers which Oxford have chosen in case of rough water. The blades are extra, at over £200 apiece.

## A Dark Blue rebel with a cause that ripples the waves

By Andy Martin

The scribbled name on the door reads "Jonny Prez". The room in Christ Church College belongs to Jonathan Searle, President of the Oxford University Boat Club, the 'favourite' for the Boat Race.

He walks in plastered with posters of his heroes: Clint Eastwood with a pair of smoking guns, Bob Dylan with a guitar, and a snarling and scowling Sid Vicious. Over his bed hangs a black banner bearing the sign of the skull and crossbones and, 'DEATH ZONE - NO PRISONERS'.

Jonny - "no 'h' please" - Searle is wearing a pair of scuffed wingtip sneakers and a T-shirt festooned with grinning sharks. His blond hair fell in 'orkscrews over his eyes. In the *Brideshead Revisited II* are practically zero, but he is a lead cert for a remake of *River Without a Cause* or *The Wild Ones*.

Until recently, Searle, aged 20, 6ft 4in and 13st, was never without his leather jacket and gold earring. Now he has gone. "I don't need those gimmicks any more - I get enough attention without

them. I've become serious and sensible in the last couple of years." But you still expect him to reply to the question, "What are you rebelling against?" with Brando's words: "What have you got?"

But Searle gets his kicks, not as leader of a gang of greasers, but as leader of the Dark Blues. He took over last October from Alison Norrish, who would have been the first woman president to appear in the Boat Race had she not been sent down for failing her first-year exams.

Searle is modest about his attainments in his own subject, biology - "it's just farming, really" - but his rowing credentials are considerable: a junior international at school and a gold medal at the world championships as part of the senior British squad, and his sights are on the 1992 Olympics.

Searle has rowed in two winning Boat Race crews. He is not expecting the third to be any different. "Because Oxford have been so successful for so long, the best rowers naturally want to come here."

As convinced of his side's effortless superiority as if he were the captain of Liverpool going out to play Grimsby Colliery reserves, he finds it irritating that the outcome of the Boat Race is still not a foregone conclusion.

"It's like throwing a ball in a roulette wheel," Tim



Jonny Searle: "what's dumb about it is that you can get off to a bad start and lose to a crew that's not really very good"

Bampfitt, the coach, says, "That's what makes it so scary." Searle is scathing about the side-by-side charge along the Thames. "What's dumb about it is you can get off to a bad start and they'll cut you up and you lose to a crew that's not really very

good and you haven't proved much at all." He adds, more subversively: "Even if you win, you haven't proved that much."

He is guarded in his comments on Dan Topolski's account of American-inspired mutiny aboard the Oxford boat in *True Blue*. "It's a good story - but there may be some truth in it."

Any hopes Cambridge might have that the two oarsmen from the United States in Searle's crew - a Rhodes scholar and Pentagon employee - will rock the boat

are squashed: "The conflict between Brits and Yanks doesn't exist - not at all." But he admits that Oxford can be "a disharmonious crew - you can have fights, people will jump out of the boat and walk home, but in a race you'd still die for each other."

He defends his men against the charge that Oxford are the numskulls of the Boat Race, all brawn, no brain, who get into university only on the strength of their rowing and is threatening to start legal proceedings against one of the Cambridge crew who accused him of failing his exams.

Searle thrives on aggression. In Bampfitt's words, "he wants to be loved, but love is not what gets his motor going." Searle acknowledges he needs "something to row against", he says of his Cambridge counterpart: "Paddy Mant is a nice guy - but I know when the race starts I'm going to hate his guts."

Bampfitt says: "He's won a lot of races on his ego." He has won himself some followers, too. He was expecting his girlfriend to come over to cook him dinner. "I don't know if it's because I'm a Blue

or just because they think I'm nice, but I don't have any trouble with women."

He has not had quite so much success with prospective employers. "I've just blown my interviews with Mars, Marks and Spencer, and Shell." The Dark Blue president has a greenish tint and would vaguely like to do "something in conservation", but rowing remains his obsession. As Bampfitt says, "He can't do anything but pull."

Searle's views on the contest may annoy the traditionalists. He sees it as more of a publicity stunt than a serious sporting event. "It gives the general public a false idea of what rowing is all about. People come up to members of the British squad and ask them, 'What university did you row for?', as if you had to be at Oxford or Cambridge to row."

The Boat Race is relatively low on his scale of priorities. "It's not a big thing for me - it's much more important to win the Olympics." But he hates losing, "especially when it's something I should win." He has no intention of being remembered as the president who took Oxford to defeat.

## SHOOTING

## Potts aims to retain title in record time

THE British air gun championships are on edge again this weekend, only five months after they were last decided (our shooting Correspondent writes).

The committee bidding for Manchester to host the Olympic Games now has a range with 200 firing lanes available at the Macclesfield Tennis Centre, "headie" home, and the championships have been moved from their previous autumn date to the spring.

Ian Potts, aged 25, of Reddington, the champion who is regarded by many as a likely successor to Malcolm Cooper, who has dropped air rifle shooting, will face a challenge from Nigel Wallace, the 1987 champion and Rob Smith, who represented Britain at the Commonwealth Games, Chris Hector, the other competitor in the games, who won in 1988, will not be competing because he is on his way to a World Cup competition in Los Angeles.

Margaret Thomas, the air pistol women's champion, is also on the Los Angeles trip, but not Potts, who has held the title several times, will be available to take three titles and Deane Coates, the 1988 women's title champion, is defending her title. Geoffrey Robinson, the holder of the pistol title, is another absentee, but Paul Calverley, who lost to him last year, still has plenty of top-class opposition.

## SWIMMING

## Moorhouse drops out on doctor's orders

By Craig Lord

ADRIAN Moorhouse, the 100 metres breaststroke world record holder from Leeds, has withdrawn from the Laurentian Life Gloucester Open meeting under doctor's orders.

The Olympic breaststroke champion, who equalled his own 100 metres world record of 1min 01.49sec at the Auckland Commonwealth Games in January, returned from a holiday in the US two weeks ago with an influenza-related virus.

In a telephone call to the organizers of the event, the round of the British Milk In Action Grand Prix, a disappointed Moorhouse said his doctor had advised him not to put himself under any pressure until the virus had cleared.

Moorhouse will now need a doctor's certificate if he still wishes to compete in the grand prix final at Leeds in May since he has not swum in three qualifying rounds. David Rolley, the meeting organizer said: "We are obviously very disappointed that Adrian can't be here. But the meet will go on and we are hopeful of some very good times over the weekend."

Moorhouse's withdrawal takes the sting out of the breaststroke event, leaving the way clear for Ron Dekker of the Netherlands to take three comfortable victories at 50, 100 and 200 metres.

Dekker, the second man behind Moorhouse to break the one minute mark at 100 metres breaststroke in a short bout (24 metres) pool, qualified in pole position for the final of that event in 1min 02.49sec. He also led the pack into the final of the 50 metres freestyle with a 23.41 morning heat, half a second ahead of Mark Foster, of Barnet.

Caroline Foot, of Millfield, will be looking to improve on her performance in the heats of the 200 metres butterfly. Foot, who leads the grand prix butterfly category, qualified last into the final. She will need to beat Madeleine Scarborough, the World Cup butterfly champion from Portsmouth, to secure her leading position. However, Scarborough is likely to see her main threat in Helen Bewley, of Swansea, who won the heat in 2 min 16.29sec.

The home crowd will have all eyes on the women's 100 metres backstroke final, into which Joanne Deakin, of Gloucester, qualified fastest in 1min 05.30sec, ahead of Sharon Page, of Wigan, in 1min 05.53sec, and Emma Tatum, of Bracknell, in 1min 06.86sec.

Deakin was the star of the English Commonwealth Games team in Auckland, where she stole the British backstroke title from Kathy Reed, of Barnet, by breaking the British 200 metres and English 100 metres records.

## CYCLING

## Racers poised for flying start to season

By Peter Bryan

THE flat Eastway Racing Circuit, although one of the bleaker places to be in East London when the wind is strong, should not prove too daunting tomorrow for the newly-formed Banana-Falcon team.

They returned yesterday from a racing tour which took them to the warmth and the mountains of Spain and Italy, making them favourites at least to be the fittest riders when the professional season starts tomorrow on the Temple Mills course. Dave Rayner was the squad's best performer in the Tour of Murcia, but it was Shane Sutton, the captain, who came out best in the tour of Calabria, finishing twelfth overall after three hard days' racing which saw the field of 145 reduced to 50. The squad should be able to control the race pattern.

Last year's winner, Steve Joughin, the former national champion, will be one of half a dozen familiar faces missing. He has been unable to obtain sponsorship in the recent cut-back which has resulted in the number of home-based pros falling to 39.

The day's programme of six races has attracted a record entry of 360, including a field of 140 in the main amateur event. Louise Jones, the Welsh Commonwealth Games sprint gold medal winner, will be among the 42 starters in the women's event.

## FISHING

## Moore power for the flying olive

By Conrad Voss Bark

THE first dark olive of spring appeared on the windscreens of my car, at least a mile or more away from the river where they must have hatched. Frank Sawyer once said that olives will fly quite a distance. No doubt they may be blown quite a distance too and I suspect this one settled on the windscreens in mistake for water.

The problem about the dark olive (*Baetis rhodani*) is what to use as a reliable match. Kingsmill Moore, that great Irish fly fisherman, has pointed out that there are at least four patterns that have stood the test of time - the Waterhen Blos from Yorkshire, the Blue Upright from Devon, the Greenwell's Glory from the Borders, and the Blue Dun which goes back to Charles Cotton and possibly beyond.

The North Country flies, like

the Waterhen Blos, are not far off Stewart's spider patterns, best fished upstream just under the water surface as they drift down, suggesting drowned duns of spinners. Sluces was right to insist that these soft-backed patterns do not suggest nymphs, as some have said.

The other three, the Upright, Greenwell and Blue Dun do fine as dry flies on top of the water or what the Piscatorials call damp flies which float in the surface film. In particular, the Greenwell is ambidextrous. With upright wings it is a floaters supreme, with sloping wings it can be almost anything from a nymph to a beetle. On lakes fished wet, it is probably the most useful general pattern of various kinds of bait that we have, on a par with the Mallards and the Wickham.

On my way to the river,

pondering my choice of fly, I remembered some other good advice that Kingsmill Moore gave in that splendid book of his, *A Man May Fish*. I looked it up on my way back from the river, fishless, and it is worth quoting for there is no better prelude to the season.

Asked what fishing meant to him, he wrote: "It may be summarized as a plea and a protest. A plea that the fish be left to make records, the urge to extract every possible fish in a way that is not illegal, the desire to go one better than the next man; a plea that fishing should be not so much a pursuit as a pastime, calling for concentration sufficient to put all worries out of mind, yet not such concentration as to be in itself exhausting."

It was not his skill but his approach that made Wotton the father of anglers."

## BOXING

## Andries's chance to regain title

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Jeff Harding of Australia, the World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight champion, and Dennis Andries, of Britain, meet in a return match in Melbourne on June 2. Harding took the title from Andries in Atlantic City last June.

Andries, who boxes out of the Kronk gym in Detroit, has been

signed as a replacement for Danny Lalonde, of Canada, Bill Morley, the Australian promoter said yesterday. Lalonde announced his retirement earlier this week.

The first bout between Harding and Andries was voted one of the best contests of 1989. Harding, bloodied and behind

on points, stopped Andries in the final round.

The Australian has won two defences of his title, beating Tom Collins, of Leeds, last October and Italy's Nestor Giovannini this month. Andries has won the WBC title twice. He lost it to Thomas Hearns but regained it after Hearns vacated it.

## GYMNASTICS

## British hopes are high in a weaker field

By Peter Aitkroyd

HOME hopes of success in today's *Daily Mirror* Championships All tournament at the Birmingham International Arena, have been greatly improved by the absence, for the first time for 17 years, of Russian competitors.

Dmitri Nefedovitch, aged 16, and Yelena Paliukh, a year younger, both tipped for medals at the 1992 Olympics, were stranded in Moscow when their visas were delayed through a misunderstanding. Cristina Bontas, of Romania, who is ranked fourth in the world, has been banned from leaving the country by her government.

Two British gymnasts look to be in the running for medals. They are Sarah Mercer, the new national champion, who is competing for Britain, and Terry Bartlett, who is representing England.

Neil Thomas, the British men's champion, is competing in a World Cup event in Toronto, and his place has been taken by David Cox, the national parallel bars champion. The leading contenders for the men's gold medal include Lazlo Boda, of Hungary, and Alojz Kolman, of Yugoslavia, both seen in last year's world championships. The strongest women's challengers appear to be Venechea Vassileva, a promising young Bulgarian, and the Hungarian, Zsuzsa Cseizi.



## SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

## On the penny points path to paradise

If anyone thought they heard hollow laughter when the Chancellor, in his budget speech last week, sacrificed £100 million in tax revenues over the next five years and handed it back to football to improve its stadiums, it would have been from the ghosts of those who tried to launch the pools 60 or 70 years ago. Today, 10 million coupons are filled in each week; with so many syndicates, this involves anything up to 18 million investors, who between them last year staked £660,530,000. Having a flutter on the pools is as natural as turning on a television set; but it was not always so.

Football authority was traditionally opposed to betting on the game and in 1935 the Football Association banned clubs from having pools advertisements on their grounds or in their programmes. It may be difficult to understand today but in 1936 the FA actually rejected a proposal from the Pools Promoters' Association that profits from the pools might be channelled into the game in return for the PPA's right to use the fixtures. Fifty-three years on, football last year received £6.5 million for the use of fixtures. It has further collected over the past 15 years from the pools companies' spot-the-ball competition £50 million for ground improvements through the Football Trust and is now about to be the biggest pools winner of all time with the £100 million from the Chancellor to add to the £10 million that will continue to come each year through the Football Trust. But, as Nicholas Fishwick records in his book *English football and Society 1910-1950*, it has been a long battle. . .

Betting was an integral part of working class life and it was inevitable therefore that people would bet on football. The popularity of football gambling and its influence on society's perception of the game, posed a serious challenge to the authorities' attempts to establish football as a respectable national sport.

By simultaneously strengthening soccer's popular appeal and linking it with what some saw as a social and moral disease, betting threatened to establish it as the people's game but to subvert it as the national game.

By 1910, betting on football was firmly established and took three forms — fixed odds coupons, private and more informal wagers, and newspaper competitions.

Fixed odds betting involved the purchase of a coupon which listed various forthcoming matches, which one then attempted to predict against odds fixed on the coupon. Many of the larger coupon organizers operated from abroad to avoid possible legal problems, and operated through agents in Britain. "Agents who are willing to buy any number of addresses from clerks in shops and offices" as the *Swindon Advertiser* said in 1912.

Clients were thus recruited by the agents with a specialized knowledge of a locality so that networks of punters could be set up. Agents worked on a commission basis and tended to patronize working class cultural areas such as the pub and the workshop; they particularly valued connections with publicans, foremen, shopkeepers and others at key positions in these institutions.

Normally, clients and coupon sellers conspired to keep any illegality from the police, who were in any case not great admirers of the betting laws although they occasionally made arrests by following up press advertisements for commissioning agents. Whatever risk the agent ran, he could earn useful sums of money — apparently up to nine shillings (45p) per £1 of business in Swindon in the 1920s.

A Sheffield bookmaker advertised for "liberal odds and commissions... to sportsmen connected with work, collieries, clubs etc., quick settlements". The pub, the street, the factory, the small shop: wherever working class people met, betting agents might be on the lookout for business, although they may have been less active than anti-gamblers alleged.

Private wagers caused less alarm. Local derbies and other important matches seemed to have been the most popular subject of informal wagers, as one supporter gambled as a sign of commitment against a supporter of a rival team.

Newspaper competitions appeared to be more respectable and overt than coupon betting. In 1910 they were generally run by the sporting press. The (Sheffield) *Green 'Un* published action photographs with the ball blacked out and readers had to guess "Where should the ball be?" for a possible £200 reward.

(Anyone who has picked up the *Sun* newspaper in the last two weeks may well have noticed a similarity — only their prize 80 years on, is £5 million!)

Readers were commonly invited to predict the results of matches which brought one reader of *The Umpire* £1,000 in 1913. The reader's only stake was what he had paid for the paper, and in each case the papers emphasised that skill, not luck was the essential: the competitions therefore were not lotteries.

The newspapers' attempts to establish such competitions as respectable and legal led them to make lofty statements as to the purpose of them. Most claimed they were "started for the amusement of our readers" and designed

"to give an added interest to followers of football." The *Sheffield Telegraph* claimed even more altruistic motives, saying its prize-money "frequently goes to people of the poorest class who find it a blessing... in hard times." Regular articles showed how the competition transformed the lives of the poor and the despairing, as the man from the *Telegraph* visited a slum to deliver a few pounds to an unemployed person.

Such events were "human documents" which throw sidelights on life of an appealing nature. They did not lead the paper to wonder how the poor survived when they were not winning football competitions, and so pandered to the worst type of Dickensian sentimentality and bourgeois complacency.

The competitions were free, harmless, good for the poor in need of money, good for the individual or family in search of amusement and good for football. Unfortunately they were also illegal.

In 1928 a test case was brought against the *Sheffield Telegraph* to see whether these competitions violated the Ready Money Football Betting Act of 1920, which forbade all football betting except by credit.

The prosecution argued that although these competitions were free, many people could buy several copies of each edition of the paper to increase their chance, thus turning the paper into a football coupon. Their object was not to bring "sunshine" into the lives of the needy "by means of the football competition" but "to increase the circulation of the paper".

The paper itself admitted that it was designed to maintain sales in an increasingly competitive market. The prosecution's case was upheld.

The rise of the football pools in the early 1930s was due to the discovery of a way of circumventing the 1920 Act. Normally, poor people were unlikely to bet on credit. However, bookmakers realized that by allowing punters to pay their stakes after the fixtures had taken place they turned the wager from ready money into credit. The pools also owed much to their structure, which had greater potential appeal than fixed odds betting. Instead of fixing odds, the pools companies presented a variety of different competitions on each coupon. The total wager on each competition, minus the company's commission, was divided between the successful punters.

The most popular competition was the treble chance in which one had the extremely difficult task of predicting eight drawn games, and the popularity of this competition made the pool of prize-money correspondingly high. Punters evolved complicated systems involving permutations to reduce the odds on these competitions, and by the 1940s enormous sums — up to £60,000 — were occasionally won on a treble chance.

(Earlier this month the individual pay-out — to a *Cumbrian policeman* — reached £1,515,589!)

The beauty and novelty of this structure lay first in the breadth of its appeal. Football and gambling experts could stretch all their powers of ingenuity and knowledge to increase their chances, but also the more casual, modest punter could trust to luck for a small sum. Secondly, the pools were guaranteed a fixed commission before the pool was shared between winners, so that unlike other bookmakers the pools firms could not be ruined by a betting coup. They therefore had no interest in swindling those who won large sums or in fixing matches, and the bigger firms made much of their financial probity. Lucky and skilful punters were assured of their winnings, the pools firm was assured of its commission. The obvious flaw was that it relied on the clients'

honesty in paying the credit but the vast majority of regular punters had no intention of defaulting. Moreover, the larger firms formed an organization for mutual protection in 1934, the Pools Promoters' Association (PPA).

As well as representing the firms' interests in dealing with other bodies, the PPA circulated blacklists of defaulting clients. Thus the structure of the pools was firm and well suited to a mass market.

To save resources the pools operated together as "Unity Pools" during the Second World War, but competition became all the more fierce after 1945 when United Pools fell apart. Only 42 firms (of 231) survived until 1951 and the top three accounted for 85 per cent of the market. Shermans controlled 10 per cent, Vernons 25 and Littlewoods, which had grown out of the retail store, fully 50 per cent. Football betting had thus moved from the back streets to the high street.

An obvious but striking point is that far more gambled on football than watched it. Estimates (necessarily rough, since the number of coupons was less than the total number of those who filled them in) varied between five and nine million doing the pools each week in the 1930s and between 10 and 14 million in the 1940s. (Today it is estimated that nearer 18 million invest each week!)

The average stake on coupons before 1914 seems to have varied between one shilling (5p) and two shillings and sixpence (12½p). In 1937, the Swindon post office reported that most postal orders it handled were for between 6d (2½p) and 5 shillings (25p) but mostly no greater than 2s 6d and the *Sporting Chronicle* estimated that the average stake was about that figure — although the actual amounts gambled by most people would have been lower, firstly because the fee was often made up of the contributions of different individuals collaborating on one coupon and secondly because those who did not use permutations, which reduced the odds for a larger stake, pushed up the average.

Why did people gamble? The reasons punters themselves gave were complicated. A Salvation Army survey in 1932 of an



Hard times, good times: Life became much sweeter for this Stoke-on-Trent family after their pools win of £1,000 in 1934

'The competitions were free, harmless and good for the poor in need of money and good for football, but unfortunately illegal'

unknown sample found that 39 per cent said they had gambled for money, 23 per cent for "sport", 16 per cent for "excitement", 11 per cent as a "pastime" and 11 per cent for "company"; no doubt several gambled for a variety of all these. This survey was of gamblers in general but certainly some of these factors applied to the football punter. The financial consideration was strong and there was a fantasy element about the sums involved... the possibility of an unemployed miner suddenly with thousands of pounds to spend on financial investments or a holiday abroad.

The strength of the appeal lay in the reality of people's lives — the pools offered a road to the security and comfort they sought. For most, the reality was insecurity and toil, the fantasy was ease and wealth and the pools offered the only narrow bridge between the two worlds.

One anti-gambler was mortified when a man's reaction to a home defeat for Tottenham was "blimey, that's done me ten results" — apparently more concerned about his wage than his team.

The football authorities were hostile to betting on their game because, they claimed, it damaged the sport's reputation and threatened the fairness of it. This involved taking every possible step to prevent betting from influencing football while strenuously denying that any such influence existed.

In 1913 the FA appointed a commission into football betting, involving the Players' Union, officials, and directors and although this found little serious evidence of match-rigging owing to betting, it still asserted that betting was "prevalent throughout the country" and recommended permanent suspension for anyone found guilty.

It was the FA that backed the Ready Money Football Betting Act and sent congratulatory messages to the chief constables of police forces responsible for prosecuting football gamblers.

To the FA, betting was a potential rather than an actual threat, but they were determined to dissociate football from any

form of betting — even fund-raising lotteries. They backed a clause in the Government's Betting Bill of 1934 which would have outlawed the pools and when this clause was withdrawn after considerable lobbying by the PPA, the authorities took matters into their own hands. In October 1935 the FA forbade clubs to allow pools advertisements at their grounds or in their programmes and in 1936 it rejected out of hand a proposal by the PPA that profits from the pools might be channelled into the game in return for the PPA's right to use Football League fixtures.

The following month the League and FA met and produced a bold plan to destroy the pools. All fixtures were to be kept secret until two days before the matches. This would make it impossible for the PPA to prepare coupons in time. Thus on February 22 the "Pools War" began. The authorities' actions were attacked; some newspapers published the PPA story that the FA had been favourable to their offer but the League had vetoed it in the hope of securing more money. Attendances fell, and George Orwell, who happened to be in Sheffield investigating the proletariat for his book *"The Road to Wigan Pier"* thought that the League's action "threw all Yorkshire into a storm of fury".

Under pressure from fans who threatened boycotts, the clubs weakened. On March 9 they voted overwhelmingly to end the "war", deciding instead to support another anti-pools Bill which was eventually defeated. The *Oxford Times* summarised the confrontation thus — "Result: League 0, Pools 1".

It was not an easy victory for the PPA however. Charlie Buchan (a former footballer turned writer), argued that the pools had been on the brink of collapse.

The authorities remained hostile and a plan by Stanley Rous of the Football Association in 1943, which involved accepting money from the pools for football facilities, had to be abandoned following violent reactions by the League and the county associations. By 1949 Rous was arguing for football to accept pools money if the pools were State-run and the Players' Union supported these schemes in

principle, but there remained no question of a deal between football and the pools as they stood. Even where the pools seemed to damage neither the game nor its reputation, the bitterness of 1936, dislike of the PPA's wealth and strength and continuing anti-gambling prejudices combined to fossilize less open minds than Rous's.

The pools and betting generally seemed to cause problems for anyone whose views were primarily moral or ideological. Given the fact that the pools were as popular as they were capitalist, it is worth studying the attitude of the left. While early Labour leaders felt great hostility to betting and to the principle of unearned wealth and consumption, a more pragmatic attitude became prevalent later.

The post-war Labour government's attitude was essentially that of the Catholic Church and it chose to tax the pools for its own purposes rather than threaten or nationalize them.

By 1950, the pools had established themselves as a major form of popular entertainment. It could be argued that some of these forms — the radio, the cinema, popular music — were undemanding and induced passivity. This was not true of the pools. As a mental test, the pools were the working class equivalent of *The Times* crossword, testing knowledge acquired as part of working class culture just as the crossword tested the knowledge and cunning of the more formally educated. The pools had an additional quality of often being a social activity. People discussed or completed the pools together in all sorts of social situations. In another sense the pools were less "anti-social" than other forms of betting. There was none of the dubious legality that was attached to street betting. Thus, while street betting tended to reinforce the solidarity and autonomy of "mostly male" working class social life in the period before off-course betting was legalized, the pools presented gambling as a respectable consumer activity, no more necessarily working class than the cinema and radio and freely and easily available to people of all classes and either sex. In practice, of course, the general structure of society meant that the pools were mostly done by those who dominated the

institutions in which the pools thrived — the family, the factory, the club and pub: that is, by working class men.

The difference was that there was less autonomy in the pools. Legal, respectable, and well organized by large firms, the pools depended on the worker only to fill in the coupon and pay his stake. But this in other ways should be seen as a triumph of working class assertion. Powerful — mostly Protestant and middle class — groups opposed football betting, even the pools, as a threat to football and society and this "respectable" body of opinion was reflected by the thrust of the Parliamentary report of 1923 and 1933. By the 1940s it was less easy to browbeat millions of people over an amusement that did no obvious harm and was in some ways part of their culture; those people were no longer being forced into the streets and illegality. This was a good omen for working class gambling in general. People were now free to gain social and mental pleasure, and occasionally financial reward, out of football.

The importance of football itself as a social phenomenon has long been recognized. Football played an important part in the lives of people who voted, governed, were governed, fought wars, raised families and worked and this meant that football had to have implications that were in some sense political. There was a deceptive unanimity about the attitude of the football authorities to football.

They held that politics could only corrupt sport. Part of the game's appeal was undoubtedly that it seemed to offer relief from the tiresome faction and seriousness of politics as much for the authorities as for anyone else. Football seemed to offer a world of political innocence: some spent their lives there, others could occasionally find shelter from the storm.

Overt attempts to introduce football into politics usually met with disapproval. Harold Fleming, the leading player of Swindon Town at that time, threw his great local name behind the Unionist candidate, a Colonel Calley, in the December 1910 Election but his speech at a Unionist rally failed to impress many. "He was told to stick to football" while others thought Calley's attempt to exploit football patronizing to the working class. If a football vote existed, it may have been counterproductive to pursue; certainly Fleming did not save Calley from losing his seat.

Just as everyone from King to local councillor scrambled to associate himself with the game of the masses so politicians always believed that it was good for their images to do the same. The Sheffield Labour MP, A V Alexander, joined the Wednesday supporters club in 1930 and often attended matches. He even wrote the foreword to Tommy Lawton's first autobiography.

J P W Malliaut went so far as to marry the daughter of the Portsmouth manager Jack Tinn and he was not the last Labour politician to make his loyalty to Huddersfield Town public property!

The rural somnambulism of cricket was closer to Baldwin's idea of the national sport but he was too shrewd to ignore football and he delivered a lecture on it just before the 1929 Election that was much admired by the Conservative press.

Lloyd George was quick to praise Cardiff when they took the FA Cup to Wales in 1927 and Ramsay MacDonald, once highly critical of the game, was a regular at big matches.

Clement Attlee, like Baldwin more of a cricket lover, was only one of many to use football metaphors in a political speech, describing himself as "the government's centre half". Much of this behaviour served to assert the unity and stability of society. It suggested that political leaders were not aloof from the interests of the electorate and that a common interest in sport expressed the solidarity of a nation or a local community. This was particularly the case with royalty. King George V became the first British monarch to attend the FA Cup final in 1914, and he attended subsequent finals whenever possible. It was significant that the King refused to join in bitter criticism of the game of millions of his subjects when it continued during the Great War.

This function of top politicians and royalty in contributing to the myth of the organic nature of English society was never better shown than at the first Wembley Cup final of 1923.

Anything from 150,000 to 200,000 people crowded into the stadium with a capacity of 100,000. Two revealing myths containing unknown elements of truth, arose. One is that the pitch was cleared without injuries to the police or the white horse representing purity, law and order, patience, and good-humoured co-operation between the police and public. The second is that the King's charismatic presence calmed the crowd. Whatever actually happened — and that is unimportant — football is clearly making its contribution to the mythology of the organic society.

*English Football and Society 1910-1950*, by Nicholas Fishwick, is published by Manchester University Press (£25).



# Stratford Ponds can stride clear

By Mandarin  
(Michael Phillips)

STRATFORD Ponds, who won the Bessborough Stakes for John Dunlop at Royal Ascot last June when the ground was firm, is named to win the Hen Harrier Novices' Hurdle on the same Berkshire course this afternoon now that conditions underfoot will be to his liking again.

Since being bought for 40,000 guineas by Oliver Sherwood on behalf of his current owner, the musician Roger Waters, Stratford Ponds has performed well in all his races over hurdles, never more so than when he stayed on strongly at Kempton in February to beat Gassid and Alkinor Rex.

He later contested the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham, where he eventually finished seventh behind Forest Sun. It is his contention that he would have finished in the first four that day but for closing the third-last hurdle when still going well.

That bad mistake cost him all his impetus and, wisely, he was allowed to coast home in his own time. With another half-mile to cover this time, the pressure should not be nearly so great.

Top weight in this conditions race will be shared by Babil, who has looked a reformed character and won four of his last five races since being gelded, and Qannasa, who was successful at Windsor, Folkestone and Warwick before running badly at Cheltenham. However, the task of conceding 5lb to Stratford Ponds looks beyond them.



Old Dundalk (nearside), seen beating Sparrowston Boy at Kempton, competes for Ascot's Keith Prowse Hurdle

As far as the valuable Keith Prowse Long Distance Hurdle is concerned, punters are faced with the choice of either going for two horses who have proved that they can get the trip (Old Dundalk and Maelkarr), or two who have not, but who have good recent form (Battalion and Milford Quay). On balance, I prefer the latter course.

Well that Battalion has won at Wolverhampton and Sandown recently, I am still loath to oppose Milford Quay whose overall record this season — he has won five of his nine races — is yet another testament to the skill of his

trainer Martin Pipe. Milford Quay has won over two miles, five furlongs and he does act on the current fast ground.

Ida's Delight, who has made the long journey from Alistair Charlton's Northumberland stable, should find life in the Peregine Handicap Chase easier than his attempt on the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham where he eventually finished an honourable fifth.

With the weights for Southwell's valuable Fibresand Handicap Hurdle going up 13lb since declaration time, The Lighter Side,

who has won four times on the course this winter, will find that his chance has improved considerably.

On the flat at Beverley, I like the look of Effervescent's chance of winning the Yorkshire Television Handicap. The five-year-old was noted making significant late headway in the race won by During Times at Doncaster eight days ago.

While those who follow the horses-for-courses maxim will back Granitum Bay to record his third victory over the course and distance in the BBC Radio Humber-side

Handicap, I am content to rely on Reasonable Kid, who is the subject of encouraging reports from Newmarket where he is trained by Ron Ross.

Finally, Celtic Bhoys, a winner on the all-weather track at Lingfield at the beginning of this month and a credible third over hurdles there since, can make telling use of his fitness and featherweight by winning the Coventry Cup at Warwick.

**Aintree going**  
The advance official going for the three-day Aintree Grand National meeting beginning next Thursday is good to firm.

## Selections

By Mandarin

1.40 STRATFORD PONDS (nap).  
2.15 Gibraltair Girl.  
2.45 Milford Quay.

3.15 Ida's Delight.  
3.50 Okcetec.  
4.35 Jubail.

By Michael Seely

1.40 STRATFORD PONDS (nap). 2.45 Milford Quay. 4.25 Jubail.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.40 STRATFORD PONDS.

Brian Seal's selection: 2.15 Gibraltair Girl.

Going: firm (watering)

1.40 HEN HARRIER NOVICES HURDLE (23.954: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

101 211011 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211012 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211013 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211014 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211015 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211016 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211017 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211018 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211019 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211020 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211021 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211022 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211023 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211024 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211025 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211026 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211027 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211028 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211029 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211030 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211031 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211032 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211033 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211034 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211035 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211036 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211037 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211038 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211039 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211040 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211041 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211042 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211043 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211044 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211045 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211046 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211047 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211048 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211049 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211050 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211051 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211052 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211053 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211054 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211055 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211056 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211057 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211058 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211059 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211060 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211061 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211062 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211063 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211064 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211065 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211066 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211067 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211068 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211069 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211070 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211071 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211072 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211073 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211074 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211075 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211076 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211077 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211078 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211079 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211080 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211081 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211082 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211083 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211084 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211085 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211086 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211087 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211088 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211089 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211090 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211091 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211092 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211093 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211094 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211095 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211096 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211097 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211098 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211099 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211100 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211101 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211102 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211103 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211104 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211105 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211106 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211107 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211108 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211109 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211110 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211111 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211112 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211113 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211114 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211115 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211116 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211117 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211118 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211119 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211120 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211121 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211122 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211123 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211124 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211125 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211126 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211127 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211128 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211129 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211130 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211131 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211132 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211133 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211134 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211135 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211136 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211137 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211138 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211139 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211140 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211141 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211142 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211143 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211144 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211145 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211146 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211147 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211148 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211149 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211150 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211151 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211152 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211153 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211154 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

1.15 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: 23.915: 3m) (9 runners)

101 211155 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
102 211156 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
103 211157 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
104 211158 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
105 211159 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
106 211160 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
107 211161 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
108 211162 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
109 211163 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
110 211164 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
111 211165 BABEL 14 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80  
112 211166 GANNAS 17 (D.J. & J. M. Christy) N. Twiston-Davies 5-11-7. P. Southwell 80

## Selections

By Mandarin

1.40 STRATFORD PONDS (nap).  
2.15 Gibraltair Girl.  
2.45 Milford Quay.

3.15 Ida's Delight.  
3.50 Okcetec.  
4.35 Jubail.

By Michael Seely

1.40 STRATFORD PONDS (nap). 2.45 Milford Quay. 4.25 Jubail.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.40 STRATFORD PONDS.

Brian Seal's selection: 2.15 Gibraltair Girl.

Going: firm (watering)

1.40 HEN HARRIER NOVICES HURDLE (23.



## TRAVEL

Anne Whitehouse concludes her selection of the best of this year's celebrations of music, drama, film and dance up and down the country

# Festivals of Britain

## JULY

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL:** More than 200 acts in jazz and blues festival, with Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Big Band, Horace Silver Quintet, George Melly and Georgie Fame, with a special tribute to Chet Baker. July 6-15: Festival Office, PO Box 944, Edgbaston, West Midlands (021 454 7020)

**BOURNEMOUTH ENTERTAINS:** Fiesta of folklore dance and music, with colourful costumes and regional rhythms from Britain and abroad. Morris men, belly-dancers, and 16th-century entertainment. July 28-August 4: Tourist Office, Westover Road, Bournemouth, Dorset (0202 291718)

**BUXTON FESTIVAL:** Voltaire is the theme, with two operas based on his stories: *Tancredi* (Rossini), and *Le Huron* (by Belgian composer Gretry). Concerts, drama, recitals, jazz, talks, comedy and fringe. July 21-August 12: Box office, Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire (0533 721190)

**CAMBRIDGE FESTIVAL:** "Avanti!" is the title of this festival of Italian culture, with visits from I Virtuosi di Roma, Tag Teatro di Venezia and Logos Ensemble. Cambridge Opera presents *Don Pasquale*, and there will be performances on Italian Renaissance instruments. Also drama, dance, art, jazz, film, pageantry, carnival, fireworks, lantern processions down River Cam, and cricket match against Italian team. July 14-25: Festival Office, Martine House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge (0223 463363)

**CHELSEA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC:** Tippett is composer in residence in his 85th birthday year, with European premiere of his *New Year Suite*; other British composers include Paul McCartney, Judith Weir, Michael Berkeley and Nicholas Maw. Bohemian music from Dvořák, Janáček, Smetana, Peter Eben, and Martinu (in his centenary year). Dance includes Giselle by Northern Ballet Theatre, and opera includes Philip Glass's *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Also chamber music, talks, film, jazz, mime and fireworks. July 7-22: Town Hall, Imperial Square, Chesham, Gloucestershire (0242 523290)

**CHESTER SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Orchestral and chamber music, and late night jazz, with international artists. July 20-28: Festival Office, 8 Abbey Square, Chester (0244 320722)

**CHICHESTER FESTIVITIES:** "Echoes of Italy" is the theme, with candle-lit performance in the cathedral of Monteverdi's *Vespers*; works by Verdi, Albinoni, Scarlatti and Respighi; fireworks concert at Goodwood; gondolas on Chichester canal; plus jazz, exhibitions, opera, films, theatre, dance and street entertainments. July 1-17: Festival Office, Canon Gate House, South Street, Chichester, West Sussex (0243 785718)

**ST ENDELLION SUMMER FESTIVAL:** Programme plans include Brahms's *A German Requiem*, Poulenc's *Stabat Mater*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, and works by Martinu. Artists to include Richard Hickox, Stephen Clarke and Simon Fischer. July 31-August 10: Details: Mrs Holden, Rock House, Delabole, Cornwall (0840 213242)

**CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL:** Events in churches, every hall and St Paul's, including Musica Antiqua Koln, and series of organ recitals including Gillian Weir. John Lill gives lunch-time piano recitals and Joan Bazzy performs at the Barbican. July 2-8: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041 227 5429)

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Clowning around: the Barbican Centre's children's festival, Summer in the City

**Bank Holiday festival (Aug 26-27):** Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 4141)

**BOURNEMOUTH ENTERTAINS:** Annual carnival and regatta with boat parades, displays, races, promenades, competitions, fireworks, illuminations, and free entertainments for children. Also clowning and parachute display teams. August 4-25: Tourist Office, Westover Road, Bournemouth, Dorset (0202 291718)

**BRISTOL JAZZ:** More than 100 concerts both indoors and out. August 17-19: Festival Office (0874 5557)

**EDINBURGH FESTIVAL:** Change in Eastern Europe provides theme, with visits from Slovak National Opera, Prague Symphony Orchestra, and featuring work of Czech composer Martinu. Also visit from Bolshoi Opera, Moscow; plus celebration of arts and culture of the Pacific, with performances from the Orient and the South Seas. Nursery dances in Gogol's *The Overcoat*; opera includes *Faust* and *Prince Igor*; plus jazz, fireworks, fringe, and military tattoo, and work by Scottish composers. August 12-September 2: Festival Office, 21 Market Street, Edinburgh (031-225 5766)

**GLASGOW EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Highlight is premiere of Monteverdi's opera *Le Vite Humaine*, last performed in 1655. Other features include La Grande Écurie and La Chambre du Roy. Part of Glasgow's Cultural Capital year. August 4-11: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041-227 5429)

**LAKE DISTRICT SUMMER SCHOOL:** Chamber music, including Cheltenham String Quartet, Franz Schubert String Quartet of Vienna, John Shirley-Curk, Jack Brymer, Sara Wadman and Manchester Camerata. Classes and tuition open to public. Also exhibition of work by Lakeland craftsmen. Venue: Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, Cumbria.

**August 4-11: Lake District Summer School:** Museum Building, 97 Grosvenor Street, Manchester (061 274 4149/0629 823733)

**SALISBURY FESTIVAL:** Last in four-year cycle of The Elements focuses on "Air" with subsidiary "Festival of Broadcasting", including BBC and ITV coverage, live transmissions, and highlights are Carl Davis's opera, *Peace*, for teenagers, and Simon Rattle conducts CBSO in Beethoven's 9th Symphony. August 20-September 12: King's House, 65-The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire (0722 23853)

**SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FOLK ARTS:** More than 600 events in various venues from 7,000-seat open air arena to pubs, featuring artists from Czechoslovakia, China and Hungary. Music, dance, art, workshops, and participatory events. August 3-10: Festival Office, The Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon (0395 515134)

**THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL:** Worcester is this year's venue for choral music festival, which celebrates centenary of birth of Ivor Gurney, and Elgar's first meeting with Worcester organist for Attens in 1890. Works by Attens, Elgar (including *The Dream of Gerontius*), to mark centenary of death of poem's author, Cardinal John Newman, Edmundo (Misses) Shewell, and Prokofiev (film score for *Alexander Nevsky*). Premiere of *St Nicholas Mass* (by Cheltenham composer Philip Lane), and George Lloyd's 12th Symphony. Also Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. North Indian classical music, African jazz, Andean music on authentic instruments, and Bach's *St John Passion*. Events in Worcester Cathedral and Pershore Abbey. August 18-25: Festival Office, Brier Cottage, 132 Henwick Road, Worcester (0905 515580)

**VALE OF GLAMORGAN:** Contemporary programme features commission from Welsh composer Brian Mayes.

new works by John Mitton and celebration of repertoire of Mike Westbrook. International programme includes recital by Russian Boris Beresovsky, and tributes to Armenian by Cheltenham Quartet. Also modern jazz in medieval barn, recitals in a Welsh castle, musical picnics and champagne concerts. August 4-19: Festival Office, St Donats Arts Centre, Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan (044 65 2151/2162)

## SEPTEMBER

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FILM AND TV FESTIVAL:** Sixth festival includes showcase of Catalan cinema, survey of Canadian cinema and film commission forum examining work in Europe. Also focus on Third World cinema and weekend conferences on television production. September 21-October 6: Festival Office, Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham (021 440 2543)

**CARDIFF FESTIVAL:** First festival, organized jointly by Cardiff Festival of Music, Welsh National Opera, Cardiff Literature Festival and Cardiff International Festival of Theatre. Gala concerts, literary events and readings, and drama from international companies. September 15-October 6: St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 342671)

**COVENT GARDEN FESTIVAL:** First international festival, with Opera House, theatres, galleries, museums, galleries and Piazza, which will be transformed into 750-seat weatherproof auditorium. September 12-22: Festival Office (01-457 6503)

**GLASGOW WOMEN'S FESTIVAL:** Celebration of women's culture, with dance, music and drama workshops, and film season. Performances by Magdalena Project, 784 Theatre Company, Wicked Ladies Company. September 1-30: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041 227 5429)

**KING'S LYNN POETRY FESTIVAL:** Contemporary poetry with guests including George Macbeth, Gavin Ewart, and Michael Hoffman. September 28-30: Thornesby College, King's Lynn, Norfolk (0693 681681)

**MUSICA NOVA:** Celebration of contemporary music for piano, with Glasgow's Cultural Capital year, with premises of work by James MacMillan, Nigel Osborne, Wolfgang Rihm and John Cage. September 18-22: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041 227 5429)

**NORTH WALES MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Concerts in St Asaph Cathedral with Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra; plus international song programme. Hugh Davies plays Messiaen's *Le Noël des Étoiles*; premiere of festival; commission by John Pickard Piano Trio. September 22-30: Festival Office, High Street, St Asaph, Cwyd (0745 584508)

**SWANSEA FESTIVAL:** Forty-third festival opens with English Shakespeare Company production of *Coriolanus* and *The Winter's Tale*, followed by orchestral, choral and chamber music including Orchestra of the Bolshoi Theatre. Hanover Bank in late Haydn Mass series. Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in 150th anniversary season; and BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra. September 24-November 3: (0792 468321)

**WINDSOR FESTIVAL:** Windsor Castle provides setting, with concerts in Waterloo Chamber. Recitals also at Eton College. September 18-October 6: Festival Office, Dial House, Englefield Green, Surrey (0784 432618)

© The Holmfirth Folk Festival, Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire (0484 633029). May 11-13 is Thaxted Festival. June 22-July 15, ticket office, Thaxted Galleries, 1 Newbiggin Street, Thaxted, Essex (0371 830350)

**Jazz, poetry, prose and street theatre in Broadgate Arena.** July 8-25: (01-577 0540)

**FISHERGATE FESTIVAL:** Twenty-first year of festival, with choral and orchestral concerts and recitals in St David's Cathedral and local churches. Haydn's *Pastorale* by BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and Fife and Perthshire Choir, and London Mozart Players with Jane Glover. Appearances by Nigel Kennedy, London West Wind Factory, George Malcolm and Fine Arts Brass Ensemble. Visual arts with Herta Puts as artist in residence. July 21-28: Festival Office, Fishguard, Dyfed (0348 872612)

**HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL:** Festival's 25th anniversary includes five world premieres, with *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* youth opera by Wilfred Josephs, and celebratory overture for 25th anniversary gala concert. Media Quartet are in residence, with Barry Tuckwell; and a festival commissioned work for organ by Neil Halpin will be premiered in Ripon Cathedral. Georgia Fama sings Cole Porter; also cabaret and film. July 25-August 5: Festival Office, Royal Baths, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (0423 562903)

**INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL:** Traditional folk and world music, plus folk dances from all over Europe and Scandinavia. Part of Glasgow's Cultural Capital year. July 2-8: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041 227 5429)

**CHOIRS, FOLK GROUPS, DANCERS AND ORCHESTRAS FROM AUSTRIA, CANADA, FINLAND, ISRAEL, NORWAY, TURKEY AND THE U.S.** Also workshops, civil reception, and festival parade. July 4-11: Concertworld, 6 Belmont Hill, London SE13 (01-862 2003)

**STRAITFORD-UPON-AVON FESTIVAL:** Nordic theme marks the 125th anniversary of the births of Sibelius and Nielsen, with representations from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Grieg, Beethoven and Hans Christian Andersen feature in programme, and Magnus Magnusson presents "Island Saga". Also Legoland Band, Viking/Saxon battle, Ensemble, lectures, films, drama, jazz, flower festival and fireworks. July 14-August 5: Festival Office, 2 Chestnut Walk, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (0789 679669)

**SOUTH BANK:** Celebration of arts of Indonesia in two-month season of concerts, exhibitions, cabaret and opera. Programme published June. Also Capital Jazz Parade. July-August: Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 3002)

**WARWICK FESTIVAL:** Czech music featuring Martinu in his centenary year, with performances by specially created Martinu Centenary Ensemble (in residence), who play some of the composer's jazz-inspired works. Performances of *Much Ado About Nothing* in the courtyard of Warwick Castle, and entertainments at Kenilworth Castle. July 4-15: Festival Office, Northgate, Warwick (0826 410747)

**YORK EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:** "Les Plaisirs de Paris" is theme of celebration of Gothic Paris to the court of Louis XIV. First modern performance of Charpentier's *Vespers for the Feast of St Louis*. Also workshops, recitals in stately homes including Castle Howard and Harewood Castle, events in York Minster. climax is Gothic Congo of costumed musicians, dancers and street entertainers. July 6-15: Festival Office, De Grey House, Exhibition Square, York (0904 658398)

**ARUNDEL FESTIVAL:** Open-air Shakespeare in battlements of Arundel Castle, jazz with Benny Green, and contemporary artists perform Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ*, concerts by London Mozart Players and London Handel Orchestra, music from Vienna, puppet theatre, lectures, films and art gallery trail. August 22-September 2: Festival Society, The Mary Gate, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 863990)

**BARBICAN SUMMER FESTIVAL:** Twelfth annual music festival with concerts at Shrewsbury Castle, 11th-century abbey church, and market squares throughout the county. Drummers, percussion ensembles,

**PETERBOROUGH FESTIVAL:** John Joubert is featured composer, including premiere for chamber organ (festival commission). Events in cathedral include recital by John Lill, Promethean Ensemble performs *Faust* with John Amis as speaker, and gala finale with City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox. July 2-8: Christopher Gower, The Chapter House, Minster Precincts, Peterborough (0733 43342)

**PROMS:** Ninety-fifth season, with more than 65 concerts in 58 days. International orchestras, choirs, soloists and conductors. Programme published in May. July 20-September 15: BBC World Shop, Bush House, The Strand, London WC2 (01-257 2576)

**SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL:** Twelfth annual music festival with concerts at Shrewsbury Castle, 11th-century abbey church, and market squares throughout the county. Drummers, percussion ensembles,

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# TRAVEL

## The fields of French chivalry



Memory-filled France: the killing fields of Henry V's Agincourt (now Azincourt) and two world wars

A long weekend break in the glorious countryside of northern France turns into a pilgrimage of rediscovery for Tom Pocock, memories refreshed by visits to the ancient battlefields at Agincourt and Crécy

After the accepted tale, the countryside was wonderfully empty and unspoiled. These were the "vast fields" of France, strange yet so familiar: open farmland decorated with clumps of woodland and isolated villages and so often marked by the stone-walled gardens of Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries.

Farther west in Normandy, or around Arras to the east, that would have been the case. But although this part of Artois did not see fierce fighting in either world war, there were war graves beside the road. They lay beneath a copse and were marked by the pale figure of Christ on the Cross and an inscription below. In the long grass before the blithely commemorative lettering, worn by time and weather, lay two fresh bunches of carnations.

The ancient inscription, as over other graves in a church not far away, recorded that here lay "the flower of French chivalry". They were the knights who, as Shakespeare wrote, were "the very aquies that did alight the air at Agincourt".



The battlefield of 1415 and the nearby village from which it took its name are now called Azincourt. Our visit was prompted partly by the Kenneth Branagh film and partly by looking at a map in search of destinations for outings while on a weekend jaunt to France.

We had chosen to stay in the old walled town of Montreuil, just inland from Le Touquet, and less than an hour's drive from Boulogne and Calais. The thought of Le Touquet, out of season — or in season, for that matter — had not appealed, but as we had pored over the map and the myriad of village names, Azincourt had caught our eye. A little preparatory reading

suggested a few other places on the march King Henry V had led from Harfleur to Calais, via Azincourt, and on a clear, bright autumn morning we set out. The 20-minute drive eastward ran along the valley of the Canche to Hesdin and then north-east on to high, rolling farmland and the village of Maisonselles. Here had been Henry's headquarters and the bivouac where he had visited the camp fires on the eve of the battle to bring "a little touch of Harry in the night".

There had been only about 6,000 English soldiers — a sixth of them armoured knights, the rest archers — and they were starved, wet, cold and tired after the long march. A few miles to the north, between them and safety at Calais, three or four times that number of French soldiers, including thousands of knights in armour, were camped around Ruessauville, fresh, confident and eager to fight.

We followed the road that the English had taken on to an open plateau between the villages of Azincourt and Tramecourt, to north and south, and halted by a stone monument bearing the name of the former and the date, 1415. This was where the English had first seen the glittering array of the French, two

miles wide, barring their way. A practical soldier, Henry had advanced to a point where two woods, less than a mile apart, would offer him a length of front that he might be able to hold. While his knights stood in the open, he ordered his archers to line the edge of the woods and plant sharpened stakes in front of them. The woods are still there; those to the north now sparse, but those to the south still thick enough to stop a cavalry charge.

At a crossroads, a café and a petrol pump stand, with signs announcing essence, and that this is exactly where the Battle of Azincourt was fought. Ahead stretched ploughed fields that had been ploughed, too, on that October morning as the French advanced over them on foot.

They had advanced until their cavalry ordered to clear the English archers from the edge of the woods, had charged. Then the longbows had been loosed, and the cavalry wheeled away from the arrows, colliding with their own advancing foot-soldiers. They pushed forward by the ranks behind, were being compressed into the funnel of open field between the woods until they could hardly raise their sword arms.

The vast French army stalled in chaos, and then the English struck. It was all over quite quickly; the English victory was total, and the French losses colossal. An extraordinary event, it warranted all the flamboyance Shakespeare lavished upon it.

Anyone who had been there on that St Crispin's day would surely still recognize the battlefield. Apart from the café, the petrol pump and the roads, little has changed. Azincourt itself has only recently paid public attention to its fame. A few big, decorative drawings of medieval knights and archers have been fixed to farm buildings; the tiny

'Anyone who had been there on that St Crispin's day would surely still recognize the battlefield'

musée, which offers a modest audio-visual show in summer, was shut.

It was time for lunch and we turned towards Hesdin through the beech trees of the Forêt d'Hesdin. In the small, busy town, the sight of the hors-d'oeuvres trolley, heaped with fresh crudités, through the window of the Hotel de Flandres was enticing enough. At table, the map came out again and a destination sought for the afternoon. A familiar name stood out: Crécy.

A short drive to the south took us across the valley of the Authie and on to the battlefield of Crécy. Just above Crécy-en-Ponthieu is marked Moulin Edouard III. Beside the road is a mound where stood the windmill that was King Edward's command post in 1346 and where he had invested his son, the Black Prince, with his spurs after the victory. This battlefield had changed. On the road uphill from Crécy-en-Ponthieu, medieval pennants flutter and a windmill-shaped viewing-tower now stands. Around it is a garden, a car-park, with an "orientation board" to explain the battle.

The topography of the battlefield is more dramatic than that of Azincourt, for the French — again the flower of French chivalry pitted against the longbows — charged

uphill. There they died, among them the old, blind King of Bohemia, where he fell now stands a stone memorial, the Croix de Bohême.

The road back to Montreuil took us through the Forêt de Crécy, blazing with autumn colour; its glades quiet, despite walkers and parties of chasseurs, influenced, perhaps, by signs proclaiming "Zone de Silence". In silence, too, came thoughts of the past.

At Crécy, the memory has been well packaged; a satisfying excursion for tourists, and instructive for schools. Azincourt is different. There it almost seems as if the last English archer has just trudged off the battlefield and the last French knight dragged to the grave pit.

### TRAVEL NOTES

Our weekend, arranged through Inntavel (0439 71111), offered return ferry crossings plus two nights and three main meals at the cosy Hotel-Restaurant Le Darnetel in Montreuil-sur-Mer in its winter-iron brochure. Price £108 per person (two travelling) until April 30; £122 in May and June. More restaurant than hotel, its food proved a combination of the delicate and the robust; inexpensive, too, although the wine was not.

## Taking your car for a ride

British Rail is expanding its Motorail service. Michael Dynes reports on the routes, quality of service and costs

In May, British Rail will introduce a Motorail route from London to Fort William, at the foot of Ben Nevis, as part of its expanding, and popular, car-rail service for the new season.

Passengers and their vehicles can already travel to a variety of destinations from London, including Carlisle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Inverness on both day and night trains. The Paddington to Penzance route has been dropped, however, because of lack of demand.

The car-rail service has changed dramatically since it was introduced in the 1960s. The old Motorail-only trains, restricted to those accompanied by cars, proved a poor commercial proposition and were abandoned.

Following the restructuring of Motorail operations, car-wagons now run on the back of conventional InterCity and sleeper trains, avoiding the risk of passenger and vehicle arriving at different destinations. Only covered wagons are used, thus reducing the risk of vandalism.

Last year, Motorail carried 32,000 vehicles and 60,000 passengers, bringing in £5 million — five per cent up on the previous year. BR is confident that the expansion will continue.

But the increase in demand for Motorail services begs explanation; they are not cheap. The cost of a single peak-time journey from London to Edinburgh, for example, is £105 per car, and £80 per passenger — barely competitive with the cost of an air ticket and a hire car.

Michael Beswick, InterCity's business products manager, says: "People use Motorail because they want to avoid the hassle of driving or hiring a car, and because they want the familiarity and comfort of their own vehicle."

At these prices it is perhaps not surprising that the Motorail customer profile is made up of someone from the South East, who is generally more affluent than the average InterCity customer, and Mr Beswick says, "who also expects a high level of service and quality".

After arriving one and a half hours before departure, to allow sufficient time for BR's drivers to load the vehicles into the car-wagons, pas-

sengers with first-class tickets can use the facilities of one of BR's best keep secrets — the Pullman Lounge.

Access is via an electronic entry-phone, and the lounge offers all the requirements of the business executive and leisured traveller — conference rooms, photocopier, telephones, champagne and gourmet sandwiches.

The contrast between travelling on the InterCity sleeper service and the more conventional BR services can be startling, and people could be forgiven for assuming that BR is running two railways.

BR rejects such allegations, arguing that the volume leisure and executive travel markets are quite distinct and have to be catered for separately. It says: "Everyone likes to travel in luxury, but the volume leisure market also has price expectations, and we have to strike a balance between the two."

Once on board an InterCity sleeper, refreshments are available in the fully air-conditioned sleeper-cabins or from the lounge throughout the night. Passengers can book early-morning calls and order the traditional full English breakfast.

The Easton to Edinburgh run, leaving around midnight, takes about six and a half hours.

Passengers can linger in their cabins until dawn.

Despite their ability to travel at more than 100mph, InterCity sleepers rarely go above 80mph, ensuring a smoother ride. "There's simply no need to race the trains. People don't want to arrive at ridiculously early hours in the morning," Mr Beswick says.

The schedule of services and peak and off-peak prices — including BR's "bargain basement" prices for the winter season — will be available shortly in the new Motorail brochure. For example, the off-peak single fare from London to Edinburgh is £65 per car and £80 per passenger. It is advisable to book well in advance.

The off-peak prices apply from this May until May next year — except for weekend journeys from mid-May to mid-September, all departures in late July, August, and September, and during the Christmas and Easter holiday periods.

### TRAVEL BOOKS

Both of Jasper Goodwin's grandmothers brought home tea caddies from their lives abroad — one in China, the other in India. The caddies became the inspiration for an unusual book, *The Gumpowder Gardens - Travels through India and China in Search of Tea* (Chatto & Windus, £14.95). Goodwin, a remarkably assured 25-year-old, travels first to China's European-style cities, and then on to India. He describes not only his own travels, but the trail of the adventurers and merchants whose quest for the world's most popular beverage (excluding water) has fuelled wars and revolutions. It is an old starting point for a travel book, and perhaps the historical overview is more interesting than the present day insights, but reading it will make you think twice before you put the kettle on to make a cuppa.

Jenny Tabakoff

### TRAVEL NEWS

#### Pass partout

The Australian airline Qantas has launched a new air pass, which offers substantial savings on flights within Australia to passengers from the UK. A typical Sydney-Perth-Adelaide-Sydney itinerary based

on the pass would cost about £320, compared with the normal fare of about £565 — a saving of 43 per cent.

The pass is available to passengers holding an international ticket for travel by Qantas, into or out of Australia, and a minimum of three domestic sectors have to be booked. Tickets based on the special fares can be booked from travel agents and Qantas offices before departure, or in-flight on the final sector of all Qantas flights into Australia. Information: 0345 747767.

#### Driving east

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary are featured for the first time this summer in the Hertz "Europe on Wheels" motoring-holiday programme. Typical daily rates, for the hire of an economy car in Hungary, start at £20 for a rental of between three and six days, or £15 for rentals of more than 14 days. Information: 01-679 1799.

A day trip to Prague is being operated by GTF Tours on

April 17. Departure is from Stansted Airport, and the £139 price-tag includes a guided tour of the city, a typical Czech lunch and visa. Information: 01-792 1260.

#### Malaysia by car

Independent self-drive holidays in Malaysia are now on the market from the Far East specialist, Magic of the Orient. The company can book accommodation if required, but otherwise travellers are issued with hotel vouchers, which can be used at more than 60 establishments throughout the country. Prices start at £1,014 for two weeks, including return flight from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, hire of an air-conditioned car with unlimited mileage and accommodation vouchers. Information: 01-937 5885.

#### Berlin breaks

Inntavel is using Dan-Air's new scheduled service from Gatwick to Berlin for a series of bargain breaks. A 24-hour trip is available daily, except

Friday and Saturday, from now until May 10 — apart from the Easter period — at £89 including bed-and-breakfast accommodation. Weekend breaks cost from £229 for three nights, with accommodation at a two-star hotel. Information: 0439 71111.

#### Shopping trip

Hong Kong may sound a long way to go for a short break, but Koral is offering four-night shopping packages there this summer, from £499. Accommodation is in a first-class hotel with a view of the harbour, and flights operate from Gatwick, on Tuesdays between June and September. A full week's stay in Hong Kong starts at £599. Information: 0306-740500.

#### Youth movement

Special low fares from the UK to Germany for people under 24 are now available from the German national airline, Lufthansa. The new youth fares can be booked on an "open door" basis, so that

passengers can fly to one destination and return from another. Typical return fares start at £70 for flights between London and Cologne or Düsseldorf. Lufthansa also has special introductory offers, valid until May 13, of £100 return on its new routes from Gatwick to Munich and Heathrow to Stuttgart, or £120 return from Manchester to Hamburg. Information: 01-408 0442.

The Swansea-Cork Ferries service across the Irish Sea is being reintroduced this year, with up to six return sailings a week between May 9 and September 30. One-way fares start at £75 for a car with up to four passengers. Information: 0792 456116.

#### Philip Ray

Icelandair (*The Times*, March 24) is now based at 172 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LG (01-388 5599). The Superper return fare is about £281. National tourist office, same address (01-388 5346).

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TRAVEL

# A thoroughly idyll life

PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. HEATON / RENE BURRI



**Michael Watkins**  
rounds off his  
sojourn in the  
South Seas by  
exploring the  
pleasures and  
customs of the  
Fiji islands

There is something clandestine about arriving at a strange destination by night. From Suva's Nausori airport, on the main Fiji island of Viti Levu, I was escorted wordlessly to a car, bumped along an unmade road to a jetty and loaded, like contraband, on to a waiting launch which immediately cast off.

The helmsman stared into the eel-black dark, navigating an estuary, then the chop-chop of open sea. After 40 minutes he spoke his first words: "There is the island... Toberua." He relaxed perceptibly, showing very white teeth. Ahead there was candlelight; the sound of a guitar. I jumped ashore, and into the embrace of a woman who placed a lei around my neck and warm lips on mine, as is the custom.

The four-acre island is owned by Michael Dennis, a New Zealander. There are several bures, huts constructed of wood and woven walls rising to a ceiling 25ft high. There was good food and much friendliness.

One day I went with Mr Dennis to the neighbouring island of Moturiki, wading ashore to the school where he was to present speech-day prizes. But first there were formalities to be observed. Cross-legged, we squatted with the elders, many of them tattooed, for the sevu sev ceremony, the welcome drink, which is prepared to the accompaniment of a hymn of grunts and clapping of hands. The yagosa root is immersed in water and pummelled until a greyish juice, kava, is collected; then more and still more. Dispensed in coconut husks to a ritual of glottal chants, it is offered to honoured guests to whom it becomes incumbent to bow, clap once, drain the lot, then clap thrice before rolling one's eyeballs in sardonic appreciation, exclaiming "yum-yum" or sentiments to that effect. Vintage kava tastes of squeezed

washing-up cloth and is said to induce numbness rather than drunkenness. In my case it did not prove habit-forming, a reaction which was accepted on the grounds, I supposed, that the slackness of my abstention was taken up elsewhere.

Despite the therapeutic claims of kava, one could not help noticing certain locomotive difficulties and a degree of absenteeism at the prize-giving, which was followed by a men-only meal at which we dipped fingers into bowls of this and that as children sang and danced outside in torrential rain.

It was an occasion of immense charm; more character-building than when I trod the length of Great School to collect Sir J.W. Kay's *Lives of Indian Officers*.

On another day I pounded the streets of Suva, the Fiji capital on Viti Levu; not the most appealing city, but not the worst by a long chalk. It began to self-destruct in the 1950s when Indians were seen to outnumber native Fijians. The culmination was in 1987 when an army lieutenant-colonel, Sitiveni Rabuka, led his soldiers into Parliament House to march the prime minister away. The coup was motivated by racialism, not by political idealism, and the results were catastrophic; the sugar industry collapsing, tourist hotels plunging to 5 per cent occupancy.

Suva had its share of touts, beggars and bad smells; dusty shoe shops, cheap watches and T-shirts with achingly unfunny slogans. It felt stale, but I felt not a moment's concern for my safety.

I enjoyed the harbour setting, blue mountains beyond. At the airline offices they were very polite, but I wasn't tempted to sell up and move to Suva tomorrow.

Back on Toberua I met a man with red hair and a red beard who told me he was guarding the cement. He was patching up his 25ft glass-fibre boat, which had burst on the



A feast from the trees: fresh coconuts are there for the taking by the skilful climber. Right: a welcoming lei of exotic flowers

## TRAVEL NOTES

● Michael Watkins flew from Nadi to London via Los Angeles with Air New Zealand (01-630 3434). London-Nadi economy return £935 (April 1 to June 30), business economy, £1,492 each way.

● His ground arrangements were made by Elegant Resorts, Lion House, 23 Watergate Row, Chester CH1 2LE (0244 325620), which can arrange independent packages to include Toberua and The Fiji Plant. It also offers a seven-night stay at Forbes Laucala Resort, for approximately £1,562 for two, inclusive of all meals, wine, sailing and so on, but excluding plane transfers.

● Transfer arrangements in Fiji were handled by United Touring International (01-588 2606).



## Teutonic tonic full of heady surprises

**Hilary Finch**  
basks in the  
splendours of  
Freiburg and  
the Black Forest

There were 42 varieties of olives in the market in 42 wooden vats. There were wide-faced sunflowers and straw shoes, and the aroma from the garlands of garlic and tables of Provencal lavender was as stunning to the senses as the sun which bounced back from the cobbles to blind cathedral-darkened eyes. Olive oil filled tall bottles, and oleander, hibiscus and bougainvillea bloomed in the stonemason's yard.

I was not in Aix-en-Provence, or Arles or Avignon. I was in Freiburg, every bit as German as its name, yet basking in the luxuriant shelter of the Swiss Jura to the south, the Vosges to the west, and the Schwarzwald to the east. The leaves of a cinnamon tree were found among the fossils of this area, which once had a sub-tropical climate. Even now, thanks to warm winters and early springs, cherries bloom here earlier than anywhere in northern Europe.

As if the climate were not cause enough for an identity crisis, Freiburg has switched nationality throughout its history. Austrian for more than 400 years, it snuggled under the wing of the Hapsburgs in 1368, only to become French under Louis XIV, Austrian again in 1698, and part of Napoleon's Grand Duchy of Baden in 1805. Only in 1952, after further French occupa-

tion in 1946, did Freiburg become part of West Germany's Baden-Württemberg. Its vacillation is voiced in its dialect (an Alemannic Thesaurus is still going strong). Its pivotal position on the old trade route from Austria to France is celebrated in its market produce, its Salzstrasse, its every paving stone.

At one's feet lies a mesmeric and ever-changing mosaic of subtle colours and shapes. Spanish and Italian tradesmen had the idea of fashioning Freiburg's streets from the granite, sandstone and slate pebbles of the Rhine.

Stones still more precious were brought from the forests of Bohemia to be cut and polished in Freiburg. The craft is maintained in a shop called Edelsteine, run by the Trenkle brothers, just off the main Kaiser-Josef Strasse. Cornelian and aquamarine, emerald and amber, moonstone and malachite glow in every stage of cultivation in a shop which has all the fatal lure of

the lodestone itself. In the 13th century, silver was found just south-east of Freiburg, high in the hills of the Schauenland. I drove out to "look into the country", as its name invites one to do, and found myself surrounded by great curves of bare hills, their timber once used to prop up the silver mines, their wealth worked out by monks who founded the onion-towered monasteries which dot these foothills of the Black Forest. Along the road between the Glöttental and the Münsental, 3,775ft up, stand big, old farmhouse-hotels.

I descended the Münsental at dusk and discovered, glowing stark and white, the little Romanesque church of St Cyriak at Sulzburg. This forgotten village, in the Middle Ages a flourishing Jewish community and still retaining its synagogue and cemetery, does not expect tourists: fish swim in its fountain and old barrels and tubs lean in weary recollection of past laundry days around its water pump.

Another day, I left Freiburg via the Glöttental because I felt I ought to see a Black Forest lake. I passed fields of maize and sunflowers, pigs, beehives and crucifixes, guesthouses eager to refresh me with a glass of their rosy, late autumnal Glöttentaler Weissherbst, and found myself climbing to St Peter, a community of 2,000, built around the colle-



Top: the ornate cathedral clock and cuckoo-clock shop sign. Above: unusual restaurant sign and a decorated period house



giate church founded in 1100. Now a Benedictine monastery, complete with library, spa and retreat houses, St Peter focuses on a twin-towered baroque church which belonged to the dukes who founded Freiburg. They usurped the place of the apostles on the interior pillars, and decked the church in gold leaf and white glaze. The

monks, who cultivated the area, taught the clockmakers of the Black Forest their skills: the art reaches its apotheosis on the shores of Lake Titisee, where several hundred examples swing and squeak out their manic existence in shops which line the once silent strand.

An admirable network of buses and little trains connects the Titisee to villages such as

## TRAVEL NOTES

● Hilary Finch flew Lufthansa (01-408 0442) to Frankfurt (£98 Apex return to £358 first class) and on to Freiburg by rail (2½ hours).

● She stayed at the Hotel zum Roten Bären, Oberlinden 12, (010 49 76 136913), from £55 per night, b&b.

● DER (01-408 0111) offers seven, 10 and 14-night holidays in Freiburg from £272 (rail, seven days) to £844 (air, 14 days).

● German National Tourist Office, 65 Curzon Street, W1Y 7PE (01-498 3890/1).

St Märgen, Hinterzarten, with its great 18th-century spa hotel, and back to Freiburg. Not for nothing is the sunflower ubiquitous. For Freiburg is the green city *par excellence*. Only trams are allowed within the old town centre, 80 per cent of which was destroyed in the Second World War.

A good second best is the Insel, a network of tiny canals and arms of the River Dreisam, a tributary of the Rhine, which once provided water for tanners, dyers and stonecutters, and now adds its sound effects to the toytown of artisans' shops.

The old Augustine Münster was miraculously untouched by the air-raid which claimed 3,000 lives. Europe's first-ever slender, lacy pyramid of a Gothic spire looks down on the great west door, where the outline of 13th-century leaf measures are etched in stone.

The Marktplatz once sat here and kept their eyes on medieval fair-trading. Now, Black Forest honeys compete in darkness and price, and the olive man summons his 42 varieties to public trial.